Hafa Adai!

'Newly OK'd COVID-19 shot is first booster for immunocompromised' PAGE 2
Travel testing moves to Koblerville COVID-19 Community Center. PAGE 6

$1

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Senate adopts Impeachment Rules

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With five senators voting "yes," three voting "no," and one absence, the Senate adopted yesterday the 28-page Impeachment Rules for the trial of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who was impeached by the House of Representatives for alleged commission of felonies, corruption, and neglect of duty.

King-Nabors

Cruz

This sets the stage for what is expected to be a partisan brawl between the Republican-controlled Senate and the Democrat-controlled House that will decide the political fate of Torres, the titular head of the CNMI Republican Party, during an election year.

The five who voted "yes" to a resolution to adopt the Rules were Senate president Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), floor leader Sen. Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan (R-Saipan), Sen. Victor B. Hocog

See SENATE on Page 4

Eye-watering gas prices on Tinian, Rota

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TINIAN—Saipan's residents are most assuredly suffering from the grip of increasingly expensive gas prices and their spillover effect on groceries, rent, and

See ROTA on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:46pm, March 3, 2022

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Additional Dose Vaccinated: 57.1%

Days since last community transmission 2

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	38,043
Fully Vaccinated:	37,201
Moderna	
Initiated:	5,336
Fully Vaccinated:	5,199
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	1,141
Additional Dose:	21,306

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	45,072	169	45,241
Recovered	41,191	12	41,203
Active	3,538	169	3,707
Deaths	330	1	331

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	9,724	132	9,856
Recovered	8,967	137	9,104
Active	590	132	722
Deaths	30	0	30

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

COVID-19 UPDATE

6 hospitalized; 132 new cases

As of March 2, 2022, there were six individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19: One unvaccinated, four vaccinated, and one partially vaccinated. One of the six is on a ventilator.

Also, 132 additional individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI total to 9,856 cases since March 26, 2020.

Of the 132 cases, 131 were identified on March 1 and one was identified prior to March 1. Fourteen were identified on Tinian and 10 on Rota. The vaccination statuses of the 132 cases are pending verification.

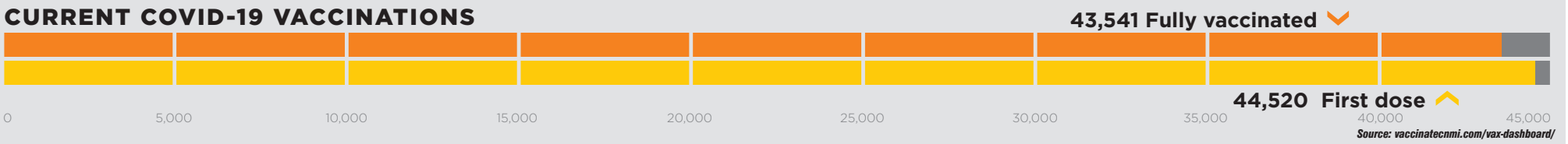
In Guam, the Joint Informa-

See 6 on Page 4

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING PSS FACEBOOK PHOTO

Northern Marianas Technical Institute chief executive officer Jodina Attao, second from right, and Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada, rightmost, of the Public School System sign a memorandum of understanding during a signing ceremony yesterday that was witnesses by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, NMTech board chair Mario Valentino, and other NMTech board members. The MOU will allow qualified PSS high school students to pursue vocational, trades, and technical education at NMTech and enable them to receive high school credits toward graduation.

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

LOCAL
Nick Nishikawa is retiring after 13 years as general manager of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Page 9

WORLD
The number of people sent fleeing Ukraine by Russia's invasion has already topped 1 million.

Page 17

OFF THE WALL
A county courthouse is poised to be the first in Maine to have a dedicated therapy dog.

Page 18

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

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March 5, Saturday
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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- **Moderna (18+ years old)**
- **Pfizer (12+ years old)**

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Live COVID-19 safe. Practice the 3 W's:
Wear your mask, Wash your hands, Watch your distance

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Local

'Newly OK'd COVID-19 shot is first booster for immunocompromised'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. clarified yesterday that the next round of COVID-19 shots that the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention recently approved is considered the first booster shot for immunocompromised individuals.

According to CHCC spokesperson Guillermo Lifoifoi, immunocompromised individuals are required to get the first three doses, if they opted for the mRNA vaccines like Moderna and Pfizer, to be deemed fully vaccinated, compared to relatively healthy individuals who only need the first two shots to be considered fully vaccinated.

"A Moderna booster is half dosage, meaning, for immunocompromised, their primary series of three shots is full dosage. The timing of the booster is different from the primary series as well. The third shot for immunocompromised is at least 28 days after the second shot while the booster is given three months after the third shot," Lifoifoi explained.

Due to this clarification from the CDC, CHCC says the recently approved round of shots, or what CHCC is calling the fourth shot, is now considered the first booster for those who are immunocompromised.

This clarification was made to not confuse members of the public that there is a second round of boosters available as those have yet to be approved by the CDC.

According to Dr. Lily Muldoon, CHCC Public Health medical director, it is definitely a possibility that a second round of boosters will be made available to the public as the COVID-19 virus continues to evolve.

"I see it as a definite possibility. We follow what the CDC guidelines instruct us. I think, similar to the way that boosters were rolled out, that they first saved it for the highest risk individuals, and then quickly over time, other people were eligible. I believe that similar with this fourth shot, more people will be eligible over the next coming weeks or months," she said.

Muldoon said the immunocompromised includes people who are on cancer treatment, are organ transplant recipients, and those who are on HIV or immunosuppressive drugs like high-dose corticosteroids.

"Those are the people that are considered to be moderately or severely immunocompromised and should work with their healthcare provider to get their fourth dose," she said.

According to guidance from CHCC, people ages 12 years and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised and received a mRNA vaccine for their primary series (Pfizer or Moderna) should receive a total of four doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

The four doses are made up of a primary series of three doses of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, plus one booster of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine for the fourth dose. The mRNA booster will be given at least three months after the third dose of a mRNA vaccine.

People ages 18 years and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised and received the first dose of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine should get a second dose of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines

They should also receive a booster, also an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, in most situations given at least two months after the second dose for a total of three doses.

Senate counsel cites precedent that backs Impeachment Rules

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate legal counsel Antonette Villagomez discussed yesterday at the Senate's session a case precedent that supports the structure of the Impeachment Rules that Democrat representatives have strongly criticized as biased and unfair.

Villagomez cited the U.S. Supreme Court case called *Nixon v. U.S.* at the request of Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian), who chairs the Committee on Judiciary, Government, Law and Federal Relations.

King-Nabors and Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), who chairs the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, came up with the Rules of Impeachment.

Villagomez said Rule 3 of the Impeachment Rules basically gives the Senate president the option of either referring the Articles of Impeachment to the full Senate for a hearing or refer it to a special committee for a preliminary hearing.

Villagomez said the question has been raised why create a special committee to hear any of the Articles of Impeachment. She cited the U.S. Supreme Court case law *Nixon v. U.S.*, in which a circuit judge was impeached in the U.S. Senate committee as opposed to the full Senate.

Villagomez said what happened was that the impeachment case was sent to a Senate committee and the committee heard the case, had the hearing, and heard the evidence. She said when the committee was done, they came up with a report and referred the matter to the full Senate, where the full Senate voted on the impeachment of the judge.

In Torres' case, Villagomez said the joint committees decided that it is consistent with the U.S. case law, and U.S. Senate's actions in *Nixon v U.S.*

"Our Senate…can have the same options," she said.

Villagomez said the option is either refer the impeachment articles to the full Senate for hearing or refer it to the committee for a hearing. She said after the hearing, the committee report will be prepared and referred to the full Senate for action.

"And if the Senate decides to have a committee hearing,

See RULES on Page 4

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The Mobility Space is Getting Greener in the Northern Mariana Islands

The mobility space is getting greener in the Northern Mariana Islands, as Enterprise Saipan announced today that it has acquired hybrid vehicles as part of its fleet of vehicles serving Saipan.

This investment not only supports demand for safe and reliable mobility options during the COVID-19 crisis but also demonstrates Enterprise's commitment to supporting local economies and driving forward environmentally friendly modes of transportation across the islands as they move out of travel restrictions.

Enterprise Saipan also upholds its commitment to maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness in the car rental industry through theimplementation of the Enterprise Complete Clean Pledge.

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Dementia support group sets trainings on end-of-life care

Starting this March and continuing through April, the Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program of the University of Guam School of Health will provide an opportunity for caregivers of persons with dementia to participate in an online training and certification program called CARES End-of-Life Dementia Care. This award-winning program helps family and professional caregivers understand what is happening to a person with dementia at the end of life and equips caregivers with tools and strategies to approach end-of-life care with confidence.

The program has five modules, three of which will take place this month:

Module 1: Introduction to End-of-Life Dementia Care

- 6pm-8pm, Wednesday, March 2, or
- 10am-noon, Saturday, March 5

Module 2: The CARES Approach

- 6pm-8pm, Wednesday, March 16, or
- 10am-noon, Saturday, March 19

Module 3: Decision Making at the End of Life

- 6pm-8pm, Wednesday, March 30, or
- 10am-noon, Saturday, April 2

Participants who complete all five modules will receive a certificate of completion and will be eligible for CARES Dementia Certification.

CARES was created by HealthCare Interactive, an organization that specializes in online training for caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. All of the CARES training programs were developed in collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association and include evidence-based strategies grounded in the Alzheimer's Association Dementia Care Practice Recommendations.

Special sessions featuring local literature

At 6pm on Wednesday, March 9, and again at 10am on Saturday, March 12, the program will feature a special presentation on making meaningful connections with older adults and persons with dementia through collaborative readings of local literature from Guam, including novels, short stories, and picture books.

Several authors will be in attendance at the virtual session to share the inspiration for their writing and to give a live reading from their books.

The session will include live readings from the following books:

- *Neni Girl* from Agat, Guam by Anita Borja Enriquez, DBA
- *Where's Ko'ko'?* by Isaiah Diaz
- *CHamoru Legends: A Gathering of Stories* retold by Teresita Lourdes Perez
- *Ma Guaiya Yu', si Nåna yan si Tåta (Grandma and Grandpa Love Me)* by Simone Bollinger yan Dana Bollinger
- *Guaiyayon na Trongkon Mansanita (The Loveable Mansanita Tree)* by Dolores Indalecio Camacho

The support group will also feature Sen. Amanda Shelton as a special guest speaker on Wednesday, March 23, and again on Saturday, March 26.

How to participate

To attend a family caregiver online support group, use the following Zoom links:

Wednesday Support Group (6pm-8pm): https://zoom.us/j/92072878067

Saturday Support Group (10am-12 noon): https://zoom.us/j/91243370958

Weekly family caregiver support groups

The support groups are facilitated by Iain Twaddle from the University of Guam, who holds a doctorate in clinical psychology and is a licensed clinical psychologist; Rhoda Orallo, a social worker with Health Services of the Pacific, who holds a master's in social work; and Nikolas Gutierrez, a G/M GWEP counselor who holds a bachelor's in psychology.

For more information, contact Twaddle or Gutierrez at (671) 735-2883 or gwep.tgss@triton.uog.edu or Orallo at (671) 735-3277 or nfcsp-mgr@teleguam.net. ***(PR)***

SENATE

From Page 1

(R-Rota), Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian), and Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian).

Those who voted against the adoption were Sens. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota), and Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan).

Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (R-Saipan) was absent.

Before the voting, Manglona and DeLeon Guerrero were allowed to offer several amendments to the Rules. But with same 5-3 votes, the offer for amendments was defeated and therefore disapproved.

Unlike Monday's special session where Manglona and Hocog figured in a shouting match during recess, yesterday's session was orderly. Hocog kept quiet; Manglona did not raise his voice throughout the session. There was a brief tension, however, after Cruz reacted to a statement Manglona made.

Cruz pointed out that the House and Manglona want the Senate to move forward with the impeachment and now that they're doing that, Manglona is interfering.

"Every time you come in here, we're very patient enough to continue to accept you, while you continue to create problems," Cruz told Manglona.

Cruz told Manglona to stop insulting them as they do not represent the governor but the public.

"We're trying our very best. Don't say that the governor authored this resolution in the Senate. We worked so hard on this, so don't accuse us," said Cruz, who chairs the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations that helped draft the Impeachment Rules.

The Tinian senator said if the House is confident in its case against Torres, then they should make their case when the time comes. He said they never bothered the House when they did their investigation on Torres, despite seeing some unfair methods in the House proceedings. He said they never interfered because the Constitution gave the House that mandate.

"Stop interfering with the process so we can move forward with this resolution that you presented to the Senate. Are you guys not confident with your case?" Cruz asked.

The senator said if the House is confident of the case, then they should wait for their time to be called when the time comes, either at the hearing or trial.

"Stop accusing us. Since the day when I came to the Senate I represent the people and the Commonwealth. I don't represent one person. So stop accusing us. And give us that mandate so we can do our job," Cruz said.

When Cruz was talking, a Senate sergeant-at-arms surreptitiously moved closer to Cruz and Manglona. Santos was seated between Cruz and Manglona.

Cruz's Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, together with the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government, Law and Federal Relations, chaired by King-Nabors, drafted the Rules of Impeachment.

Manglona said he is sorry if Cruz feels he is accusing him. He said he was actually referring to the Rules in then-governor Benigno R. Fitial's case that was the product of Torres as then-senator, Senate legal counsel, and other counsel.

"The committee never took that as a starting point. If you look at the Rules, it is totally day and night," said Manglona, comparing the Rules in Fitial's and Torres' cases.

Manglona said Hofschneider earlier promised during a session that he is going to appoint a minority member and that was a very good decision.

He said in the House, the appointed impeachment committee members were three or four minority members, but in the Senate not even one minority member was appointed.

Before Cruz gave his statement, Manglona said he wrote an email to Senate counsels Joe Bermudes and Antonette Villagomez when the session was announced last Friday night and asked them to do a detailed analysis of the Impeachment Rules "that was authored by the governor himself."

Manglona and DeLeon Guerrero earlier sought to adopt the Senate impeachment rules of procedure in Fitial's case as a template for the impeachment trial of Torres. In Senate Resolution 22-14

Manglona said yesterday that four or five senators present at the session had approved the Rules in Fitial's case.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

6

From Page 1

tion Center was notified that the territory's 331st COVID-19-related fatality was pronounced dead on arrival at the Guam Regional Medical City on March 2, 2022. The patient was a 65-year-old female, fully vaccinated with a booster, with underlying health conditions who tested positive on March 2.

"[First gentleman] Jeff [Cook], [Lt. Gov.] Josh [Tenorio], and I pray for her friends and family—for peace in their hearts and comfort for their loss," said Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero in the JIC news release. "We understand there are times of weariness during this pandemic but we implore you to see that your efforts are making a difference. Those taking the necessary precautions, thank you. You are our lines of defense in this battle."

Of the 9,856 total cases identified in the CNMI, as of March 1, 2022, there have been 9,104 recoveries; 722 active cases; and 30 COVID-19-related deaths. A total of 9,187 were identified via community testing and 669 via travel testing.

A total of 43 COVID-19 vaccine shots were administered on March 2, 2022; of the eligible population, 57% have received an additional dose. The vaccination rate is calculated using the 2020 Census population estimates for the CNMI and includes the eligible 5-years-old and older population.

A total of 449 COVID-19 tests were conducted on March 1, 2022: 328 via Community-Based Testing; 77 at the Koblerville COVID-19 Community Center; 33 at the Tinian Health Center; and 11 at the Rota Health Center. ***(PR)***

ROTA

From Page 1

utilities, among others. But the situation of its neighbors on Tinian and Rota is even more dire these days, with gas prices topping $7 a gallon.

With the recent surge in local gas prices and the international price of crude oil surging past $110 a barrel last Wednesday, Rota and Tinian's gas prices are reaching all-time high levels, with Tinian's prices reaching the highest it's ever been in years.

As of yesterday, Mobil Oil Marianas on Tinian raised its gas prices by 10 cents, raising the price of regular fuel to a whopping $7.30, the highest it has ever been. The cost for a gallon of diesel on Tinian also went up by 15 cents, with Mobil now charging $7.49 per gallon.

Meanwhile, gas prices on Rota have also increased, with regular fuel now at $7.04 per gallon. That is, if you pay in cash. The price goes up to $8.09 a gallon if you pay with a credit card. The price for diesel on Rota has also increased to an astonishing $9.47 per gallon, nearly double the price of diesel on Saipan. That price goes up to an eye-popping $10.22 a gallon if you use a credit card.

According to multiple Tinian residents, at $7.30 a gallon of regular fuel, gas prices have never been higher for an island that only has one Mobil gas station.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Tinian's sole fuel provider, Mobil Oil Marianas, recently raised its prices, bringing Tinian's regular fuel up to $7.30 a gallon.

"We've never gone beyond the $7 mark. This is the highest it's ever been," a long-time Mobil gas attendant said.

According to another Tinian resident, it is really upsetting that Tinian's gas prices are so high but it makes sense as their supply comes from Saipan which also has to charge extra for shipment.

"It's really bad. Most people can barely fill up their tanks with how high these prices are. But it's not like we can do anything about it because we have to get our supply from Saipan, which is also experiencing a steady increase in fuel prices," she said.

However, for the most part, Tinian residents remain in high spirits despite the inflation they are currently experiencing.

"We have a lot of development going on here on Tinian. I understand fuel prices are really high right now, but I'm hopeful that soon, our island will be able get fuel shipped directly to us to possibly lower our fuel prices," he said.

Last Tuesday, oil companies on Saipan led the way in terms of increasing gas prices, with Mobil hiking up its Extra fuel from $ 5.46 a gallon to $5.56. Mobil also increased its Supreme fuel from $5.91 to $6.01 a gallon. The local oil company also increased its Diesel prices to $5.93 per gallon.

Both U.S. and international benchmark crude oil pushed prices up as investors are worried about the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, one of the world's largest energy suppliers.

RULES

From Page 3

the full Senate will still have to vote on every single article if there is a pre-determination that one or two or three of the articles did not meet the standard on the Rules," Villagomez said.

She said that impeachment article still has to be brought to the full Senate.

"So all the articles will be referred to the full Senate for action. And the only difference is if it goes to the committee, the hearing will be heard at the committee level and there will not be a hearing at the Senate level. That's Rule 3," she said.

Villagomez said the joint Senate committees used the Nixon case to basically justify that rule in the proposed Impeachment Rules.

The full Senate adopted the Impeachment Rules yesterday.

CELEBRATING WOMEN OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, joined by first lady Diann T. Torres, special assistant for Women's Affairs Office Shirley Camacho-Ogumoro, Commonwealth Women's Association president Cecilia Taitano, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Dr. Esther L. Muña, WAO chair Claudia S. Flores, and other community women leaders pose for a commemorative picture in front of the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill soon after the proclamation of March 2022 as CNMI Women's Month and Girl Scout Month; March 8, 2022 as International Women's Day in the CNMI; and March 6-12, 2022 as Girl Scout Week. The CNMI theme for the 2022 Women's Month is "Gender Equality: Key to Sustainable Development" and the International Women's Day theme is "Break the Bias."

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/s/ Joselito L. Ranjo /s/ Florefie V. Villaraza

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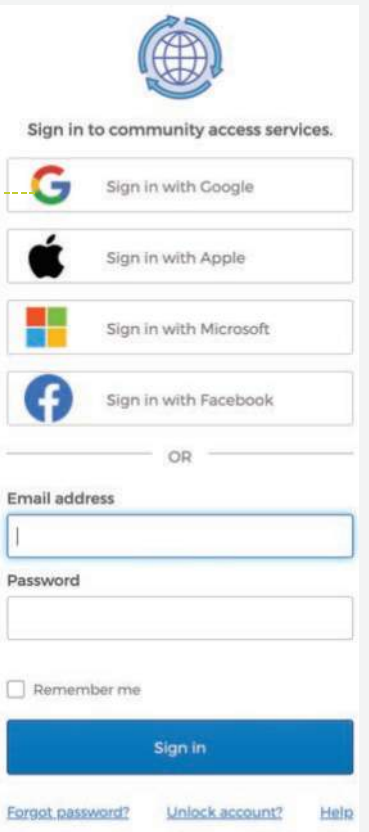
AT A GLANCE

The Department of Finance is informing all vendors to utilize an upgraded version of Munis and to avail of new services that will enhance user experiences. Vendors can now safely and securely login to their vendor portal using their Google, Apple, Microsoft, or Facebook accounts



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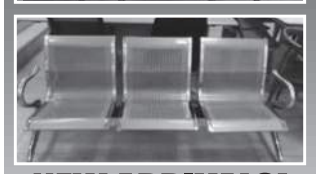

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NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 090 D 01 containing an area of approximately 3,000 square meters, more or less, situated in Gualo Rai, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is D&W Saipan, Inc. The lists of officers for D&W Saipan, Inc are Hong Sup lee, Sung Moon Cho, President/Vice President and Sung Soo Lim, as Director/Corporate Secretary.

iii. The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by Mr. Sung Soo Lim.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of sales and services of General Automotive Products, General Merchandise, food and fuel products.

The term of the public land lease agreement is 25 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the PM Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before, March 18, 2022 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TÅNU´ PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku mannånå'i nutisia guini put i intension-ñiha para u ma'atkila metton na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariånas. Maseha håyi na pattidå intirisao gi halum hinirât pupbliku siña muna'hålum upiño, infotmasion, pat testimoniun kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu' pupbliku. Kumu mapribeni mås mo'na ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesi na infotmasion manisisita para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi kumu Lot 090 D 01 ni kunsissisti kåsi 3,000 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi gi hålum Gualo Rai, iya Saipan. I kopian pättin i lugåt managuaha gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan gi website i www.dpl.gov.mp para inspeksion.

ii. I prospective lessee sa i D&W Saipan, Inc. I listan nu ufisiåt siha para i D&W Saipan, Inc sa si Hong Sup Lee, Sung Moon Cho, Presidenti/Sigundu Presidenti, yan si Sung Soo Lim, komu Direktot/Sekritåriun i Corporate.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon ha tattiyi i regulasion DPL siha yan ginen manegosiu ni as Siñot Sung Soo Lim.

iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugåt put atyu ha' na rason nu i binendi yan sitbisiun nu "General Automotive Products, General Merchandise", nengkanu' yan produktun i "fuel" siha.

I tema nu i maproponi na kontråtan atkilon sa' bentisingku (25) åñus na tiempu.

I maproponi na atkilon gi kada' såkkan gi durântin teman kontråtan i` atkilon mapega gi put sientus nu i bålin "appraised fair market" i propiedåt yan i aplikåo na put sientus nu i "Business Gross Receipts" gi halum i regulasion DPL.

v. I kopian nu i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, ni gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, iya Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet (1st) na bibiendan i PM Commercial Building, giya Tini'an. I kopia debi lokkui' na managuaha online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. I Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya marisibi ni håfa na tinahguin inofresi siha ni para u ma'atkila i suhetu na tanu' pupbliku gi Gualo Rai, giya Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u aksepta tinigi' upiñon, infotmasion, testimoniun kinontra pat tinahguin prinoponi siha ginin i manintirisão na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Matso 18, 2022 gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Sa'ipan, Luta pat Tini'an.

ARONGORONGOL TOULAP REEL KKAPASAL PPWOMWOL ATKKILOONOOL

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap re isiisiwow arongorong reel igha re mángemángil rebwe atkkilaay akkááw faluweer toulap llól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Schóó kka re tipáli rebwe isiisilong kkapas, "data", "views", ngáre angiingil eew ppwomwol atkkiloonol faluweer toulap.

i. Ppwomwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap e bwáálo bwe Lot 090 D 01 e lo bwe 3,000 reel "square meters", elapeló ngáre eghus, iye e lo Gualo Rai, Seipél. Pappidil falúw yeel eyoor me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwal wóól "website" me www.dpl.gov.mp ngáre u mwuschel amwuri.

ii. Ppwomwol schóól atkkilóón nge D&W Saipan, Inc. List-al "officers" ngáli D&W Saipan, Inc nge Hong Sup lee, Sung Moon Cho, bwe "President/Vice President" me Sung Soo Lim, bwe "Director/Corporate Secretary".

iii. Ppwomwol atkkilóón nge e angúúngú fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e abwungubwung sángi Mr. Sung Soo Lim.

iv. Schóól atkkilóónol ebwe yááyá falúw ngáli mwóghutughutúl akkaméélól me angaangil "General Automotive Products", "General Merchandise" mwonggo me "fuel products".

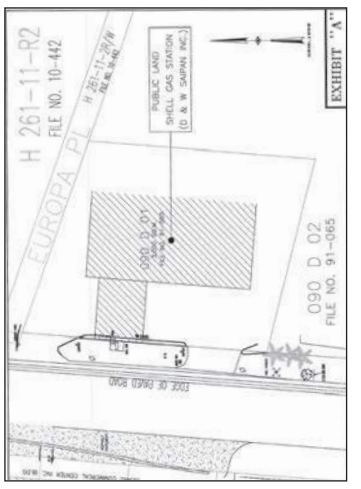
Kkapasal ppwomwol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón nge ruweigh me limoow ráágh.

Ppwomwol atkkilóón ghal ráágh atol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón nge e lo reel "percentage" sángi "appraised fair market value" reel falúw e bwal schuulong "application percentage of Business Gross Receipts" llól mwóghutughutúl DPL.

v. Pappidil ppwomwol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel JoetenDandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; 1st floor me De'Ana Commercial Building, Apilómwol Songsong, Luuta; ngáre1st floor me PM Commercial Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappid yeel "online" me www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh ppwomw ikka e lo bwe "alternative" ppwomwol ngáli atkkiloonol falúw iye e lo Gualo Rai, Seipél.

vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rebwe bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, "views", angiingi ngáre "alternate proposals" sángi schóó kka re mwuschel wóól ngáre mmwalil Maailap 18, 2022 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap ikka e lo wóól Seipél, Luuta, ngáre Tchiliyól.



Travel testing moves to Koblerville COVID-19 Community Center

ON THE NET
https://covidtesting.chcc.health

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s PCR travel testing has moved from the Medical Care and Treatment Site to the Koblerville COVID-19 Community Center, or KC3, and is free of charge.

Registration, dates, and hours are available at https://covidtesting.chcc.health. If a date or slot is not showing, more dates and slots will be announced later.

Travelers should register for a COVID-19 PCR test date at least 48 hours prior to their schedule departure. Travelers should answer "YES" and complete the registration question regarding using the COVID-19 test result for travel-related purposes, which will prompt travelers to include their passport ID number.

Travelers must provide a copy of their travel itinerary on their scheduled testing date. The COVID-19 travel testing is from 8:30am to 11am, and during Community-Based Testing hours from 12:30pm to 3 pm at the Koblerville COVID-19 Community Center and is, again, free of charge. The COVID-19 PCR tests results will be emailed on the following day after being swabbed to the email address provided in the online registration so that travelers can print out the certificate for their travel purpose.

CHCC and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force advises all travelers to check their final destination's COVID-19 entry requirements and airport and/or airline requirements for COVID-19 testing. Your travel destination or airline may require an official stamp or seal on your COVID-19 PCR test result certificate. To pick up a COVID-19 PCR test result certificate with an official seal or stamp, visit the Koblerville COVID-19 Community Center the following day after being swabbed. Travelers must provide a copy of their travel itinerary when picking up their PCR test result certificate requiring an official seal or stamp. Please call the CHCC Travel Test Result Team at (670) 785-9966 or visit the Koblerville COVID-19 Community Center to obtain your COVID-19 PCR test result certificate with an official seal or stamp.

Travelers are responsible for determining which COVID-19 testing they need (PCR or antigen) based on their destination/route and are responsible for determining the timing of their swab test date schedule.

The Koblerville COVID-19 Community Center is open every day, 8am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm. ***(CHCC)***

BBM-Sara caravan on Saipan on Sunday

A BBM-Sara UniTeam Grand Caravan will be held on Sunday, March 6, starting at 3pm. Organized by the Volunteers for BBM-Sara, Saipan-CNMI Chapter, the caravan will start from the Garapan Fishing Base (across Kristo Rai Church), head south via Beach Road, then proceed west to As Lito Road, before heading back to the Garapan Fishing Base via Middle Road.

Former senator Bongbong Marcos and Davao Mayor Sara Duterte are currently the leading presidential and vice presidential candidates in the Philippine general election scheduled on May 9, 2022. Based on the latest Pulse Asia survey conducted from Jan. 19-24, BBM is the president of choice of 60% of the respondents, with fellow candidate Vice President Leni Robredo at 16%. Similarly, Duterte is the top choice for vice president at 50%, with her closest pursuer, Senate president Tito Sotto, at 29%.

The lead of the BBM-Sara over their rivals is unprecedented. It never happened in the history of Philippines politics that a lead had gone this big. According to VBBMS, "Some people may choose not to believe the survey. It for their own reasons—and their own alone—that they do so. We respect their choice. But we will never sit on our laurels; our quest for greater heights will continue. BBM will be our next President. Mayor Sara will be our next Vice President."

The VBBMS is appealing to all participants to strictly observe health protocols, such as maintaining physical distance and wearing of face masks. The group also would like to thank the CNMI Department of Public Safety and other people who helped in securing the permit for the grand caravan. ***(PR)***

MICHAEL N. EVANGELISTA, ESQ.
(CNMI Bar No. F0364)
LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL NORITA EVANGELISTA, LLC
D'Torres Building, Garapan
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Tel: (670) 235-8060; Fax: (670) 235-8070
Email: mnevangelista8@gmail.com
Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, Plaintiff, -v- ORRIN O. PHARMIN and LAURA TAMAN OGUMORO, Defendants.	:	Civil Action No. 18-0109 NOTICE OF AUCTION ON THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 18, 2021, the court-approved auctioneer, Mr. Richard S. Villagomez, will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:
Lot 002 G 134, Kagman, Saipan, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 04, the original of which was recorded on May 14, 1990, under File No. 90-1901 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale:
The sale will be held on the 8th day of April, 2022 at 11:00 a.m., at the Law Offices of Michael N. Evangelista, LLC, D'Torres Building, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.
The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Condition of Sale:
The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the Law Offices of Michael N. Evangelista, LLC, D'Torres Building, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED this 3rd day of March, 2022.

LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL NORITA EVANGELISTA, LLC.
/s/ Michael N. Evangelista, Esq. (Bar No. 0364)
Attorney for Plaintiff

Tainted water 'shatters' Native Hawaiians' trust in military

HONOLULU (AP)—A well-known adage in Hawaiian, *ola i ka wai*, means "water is life."

Native Hawaiians revere water in all its forms as the embodiment of one of the Hawaiian pantheon's four principal gods.

The resource is so valuable that to have it in abundance means prosperity. The Hawaiian word for water—wai—is repeated in the word for wealth—waiwai.

So when the Navy confirmed petroleum from one of its fuel tank facilities had leaked into Pearl Harbor's tap water, many Native Hawaiians were not just concerned, they were hurt and offended.

"This has been the most egregious assault on a public trust resource in the history of Hawaii," said Kamanamaikalani Beamer, a former trustee of the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Nearly 6,000 people, mostly those living in military housing at or near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, got sick after petroleum-laced water came pouring out of their taps late last year. Residents worry fresh water for broader Oahu also is in danger because the aging tank system sits above an aquifer that provides drinking water to most of the island and has a history of leaks.

The Navy is working to address the problem. But many say it has deepened a distrust in the military that dates to at least 1893, when a group of American businessmen, with support from U.S. Marines, overthrew the Hawaiian kingdom. More recently, Native Hawaiians fought to stop target practice bombing on the island of Kahoolawe and at Makua Valley in west Oahu.

"The military has a long history of poor stewardship of Hawaii's natural and cultural resources," Carmen Hulu Lindsey, chair of the board of trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, said in an email in response to questions. "Time after time the people of Hawaii have been left to clean up after the military ravages our sacred lands—from unexploded ordnance and toxic waste to the loss of cultural and historic sites and endangered species—without even appropriating resources to finance these efforts."

For some, the water contamination was the last straw.

The crisis has "shattered people's trust in the military," said Kawena'ulaokalā Kapahua, a Native Hawaiian political science doctoral student and one of the activists pushing to shut down the tank facility.

"I think this is really pushing people to the edge because we all need water to live," Kapahua said. "And I think it's a very scary thought for people that their children or their grandchildren may never be able to drink the water that comes out of the tap."

Navy officials seemed aware of the distrust when they announced to members of Congress in January the Navy wouldn't continue fighting Hawaii's order to defuel the tanks.

"I understand the deep connection that the people of Hawaii, particularly the Native Hawaiian community, have with the lands and waters of Hawaii," Rear Adm. Blake Converse, deputy commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, said while noting he lived in Hawaii off and on for more than eight years.

Rear Adm. John Korka, commander of Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, also noted his connection to the islands, sharing which church he worshipped in and the Catholic school his children attended while living in Hawaii. "This is a personal issue for me, and I'm sorry."

Using 2019 Census data, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs estimates that 3,439 Native Hawaiians across the United States serve in the armed forces, which is 0.8% of the total Native Hawaiian adult population in the U.S.

Many see value in the state's relationship with the military, which also provides civilian jobs that are considered desirable alternatives to service work in the tourism industry.

Native Hawaiian Vietnam War veteran Shad Kane said he is troubled by the contaminated water, but it hasn't tested his faith in the military. His trusty pickup truck bears special Hawaii license plates indicating he's a combat veteran. He plans to transfer the plates to his new Toyota Tacoma.

"Yes, I'm bothered by that, but I also know the Navy has a greater responsibility," Kane said. "The Navy wants to do the right thing."

The Navy hasn't determined how petroleum got in the water. Officials are investigating a theory that jet fuel spilled from a ruptured pipe last May and somehow entered a fire suppression system drain pipe. They suspect fuel then leaked from the second pipe Nov. 20, sending it into the drinking water well.

The Navy has been trying to clear petroleum from the contaminated well and pump it out of the aquifer. Officials are also flushing clean water through the Navy's water system—which serves 93,000 people in military homes and offices in and around Pearl Harbor. In the meantime, the Navy put up affected military families in Waikiki hotels.

Beamer, the former water commission trustee, had been calling for the decommissioning of the tanks since 2014, when more than 27,000 gallons (102,200 liters) of fuel leaked from one of tanks.

AP

In this photo provided by Bradford Nakamura, a group of people chant at a traditional Hawaiian ceremony on December 12, 2021, in Honolulu.

The Navy "promised us nothing like this would possibly happen," he recalled. "They would never risk the lives of their own. ... They drink out of the same aquifer."

After initially resisting, the Navy said in January it would comply with Hawaii's order to remove fuel from the tank facility, which is used to power many U.S. military ships and planes that patrol the Pacific Ocean. But in February, the Navy lodged an appeal in court.

Rear Adm. Tim Kott, commander of Navy Region Hawaii, said in a statement this week that Navy officials will continue to work with, listen to and learn from the Native Hawaiian community.

"We know we have a lot of work ahead of us to gain the trust of the communities across the island, and in particular Native Hawaiians," he said. "We will continue to work tirelessly to restore community trust and the safe drinking water of our families and neighbors."

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College Board recognizes MCS student Aleia Santos

The National College Board recently recognized Mount Carmel School senior Aleia Hofschneider Santos as an awardee for the College Board National Recognition Program. The College Board said that Santos received the Indigenous Recognition Award and the National Rural and Small Town Recognition Award based on her exemplary examination scores for the PSAT and Advanced Placement courses.

The College Board National Recognition Program is designed to aid underrepresented students who have demonstrated high academic achievement in PSAT/NMSQT, the PSAT 10, or AP Exams. The program is also meant to create pathways for students by awarding them academic honors and connecting them with universities across the United States.

Santos is an MCS senior and the current Student Council secretary. She is set to graduate on June 4, 2022. Throughout her high school career, Santos has participated in various extra-curricular activities including Art Club, Eco-Club, Mock Trial, the National Honor Society, and Theatre Club. In addition to her extensive involvement as a student leader, Santos is also an honors student, having completed various Advanced Placement, or AP, courses, which include AP Computer Science-A, AP Computer Science Principles, AP Government, AP U.S. History, and AP Literature.

At this time, Santos has gained admission to Oregon State University, Portland State University, and Washington State University, but is awaiting final admission letters from Columbia University, Swarthmore University, University of California Berkeley, University of Southern California, University of California Irvine, the University of Washington, and Washington University in St. Louis.

Santos

As she prepares for college, Santos has remained steadfast in her ambition to study the sciences and pursue a major in public health, biology, or neuroscience and become a physician assistant. It is Santos' current intention to come back to the CNMI and give back to her community as a future healthcare professional.

"My parents always taught me that giving back is ultimately what we are called to do in our lives. They've taught me that our gifts and talents may belong to us, but they are really meant to serve and uplift others," Santos stated. When asked why she wants to become a physician assistant, she explained she chose this career path because of the versatility the position allows and the impact she can make in this field.

As Santos reflects on her experience at Mount Carmel School, she shared her appreciation for all the members of her school community who supported her efforts to grow as a student leader. "When I first came to Mount Carmel School, I honestly didn't like it at all. I had spent a significant amount of time in the states and I was somewhat of an Army brat so assimilating to the culture at MCS was difficult for me. Over time, I realized how much support I had at Mount Carmel School to succeed and all I had to do was reach out for help and be transparent about my struggles with lessons or assignments. As my senior year comes to an end, there are so many people I would like to thank, but at this time I would just like to say thank you to my family, my teachers, and the amazing friends I've made along the way."

Mount Carmel School's acting president Frances Taimanao commends Santos on this achievement and shares her own confidence in Santos' continued success. "This comes as no surprise that Aleia, along with her peers, are recognized for these awards. Throughout her time at Mount Carmel School, Aleia has grown so much as a student leader and has helped create significant student programs such as the 'Convenience Corners' and has coordinated various mental wellness activities to support her student body during this pandemic. I look forward to Aleia's next steps as a future healthcare professional," Taimanao said.

For more information about Mount Carmel School and her college preparatory programs, visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. ***(MCS)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PASSENGER LOADING BRIDGES 1, 4 AND 5 REPLACEMENT AND ISOLATED SPALL REPAIRS TO PCC PAVEMENT AT GATES 1, 2, 3, 4 AND 5**, SAIPAN, OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-002-20.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Passenger Loading Bridges 1, 4 and 5 Replacement and Isolated Spall Repairs to PCC Pavement at Gates 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, Project No. CPA-SA-002-20"* and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to replacement of three existing passenger boarding bridges at Gates 1, 4, and 5 with new apron-drive bridges and isolated spall repairs to PCC pavement at Gates 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport including all associated work, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). The Contract provides that the Contractor shall invoice for labor and materials for passenger boarding bridge replacement at Gate 1 separately from the invoice for passenger boarding bridges replacement at Gates 4 and 5 and spall repairs at Gates 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 (which may be invoiced together).

The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY EIGHT (568) calendar days if awarded all three bridges.** Duration may adjust based on funding availability which will determine the number of bridges to be replaced.

Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND ($1,000.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A DVD containing the plans and specification, including the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($250.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 a.m., MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022**, at the Saipan Airport Conference Room, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-29 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director
Date: March 2, 2022

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER RENOVATION PROJECT**, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-004-17.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Air Traffic Control Tower Renovation Project for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, Project No. CPA-SA-004-17" and submitted no later than **2:00 PM, MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, CPA Administration, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as wear a face mask at all times while at the airport.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited, repairs and improvements to the Air Traffic Control Tower inclusive of restrooms, kitchens, ceiling, flooring, walls, cab and catwalk, diagonal bracings, antenna supports, air conditioning, ventilation, plumbing, fire, jockey pump systems, electrical equipment and other miscellaneous work on non-damaged components necessary for required repair of damaged components, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY (420) calendar days.

Liquidated damages in the amount of ONE THOUSAND ($1,000.00) Dollars shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (US $250.00) for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A pre-bid conference will be held at the ARFF Classroom at the Saipan Airport Fire Station, at 10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2022, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. The pre-bid and site visit are not mandatory. However, it is the bidders' responsibility to familiarize themselves with the project location and conditions. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as face wear a mask at all times while at the airport.

Bidders attention is called to the fact that this is a renovation project, and the bid is to be lump sum inclusive of all work described in the contract documents including all labor, equipment, materials (including excess waste materials), necessary fittings and accessories. Lump sum work shall include all work on existing concealed elements referenced by the contract documents or required for completion of any other elements specifically refereced in the contract documents.

Questions should be submitted to the CPA Executive Director at the CPA Administration Office, in writing, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-27 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

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In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director
Date: February 24, 2022

Nick Nishikawa retires after 13 years at Hyatt

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Nick Nishikawa will always relish his memories with Hyatt Regency Saipan. BEA CABRERA

A veteran in hotel management with almost three decades of experience under his belt, Nick Nishikawa is finally hanging up his uniform and retiring this month after 13 years of service as general manager of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"I have rendered service at the Hyatt for 13 years and eight months to be exact. ...Sounds long but it went by very fast. …Sometimes people say living a 'resort life' is very slow but not for me because every day, I have things [on] my 'to do' list and, at the same time, many things happen. …My day is not an ordinary hotel operation or walk," he said.

Nishikawa's work wasn't only confined to hotel work; he was also active in the community. He was a board member of the Marianas Visitor's Authority and helped promote Saipan to the Japanese market, an active member of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and part of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance that fought for the extension period of CW-1 visas. He also led various fundraising activities to help various non-profit organizations in the CNMI, allowed his hotel managers to share their expertise to teach students at the Northern Marianas Trade Institute, and many more.

Nishikawa's tenure on Saipan was not ordinary. He had a lot of challenges on his plate, and some even went beyond the scope of what hotel general managers around the world would expect from the job. "Super typhoons, economic downturn, CW-1 issues, the lease renewal of Hyatt ,and pandemic, I had to handle them. ...My work experience over the years was definitely a huge help. You stay tough and I do not panic when the problem is right in front of me because you have to think of a solution to overcome," he said. "I also believe that one person can only do so much. But if you gather everyone to look at the same goal and face the same direction, cooperation is not hard to achieve. With my Hyatt Saipan team, we accomplished many great things."

According to Nishikawa, negotiating for Hyatt's 40-year lease renewal for several years and finally getting it late last year was akin to a cherry on top of an ice cream before his exit.

"I understand why it took time because we all have to follow regulations but I would like to say to the government and to the community that, if we all aim to make the CNMI a world-class destination, a 40-year lease is not enough. Customers nowadays travel all over the world and they definitely compare hotels," he said.

In terms of service, he said that Hyatt Regency Saipan's level of service is incomparable "as local people work hard." But re-investing in a hotel's renovations becomes a hard decision when you only have 20 years to go in the lease, he said.

"After 10 [or] 15 years—a hotel is still OK, but on the 20th year, the hotel may need another upgrade. …I think renewal should be automatic for another 40 years. ...Having old hotels on island is one of the reasons why the Japanese market went down…In reality, the people here do not lose anything, and in fact, when we keep improving the hotels, it will keep attracting tourists and make them repeat visitors," he said.

Nishikawa will welcome the new GM next week. His identity is being withheld until his formal introduction to the Hyatt Regency Saipan family and the community but Nishikawa offered that the new GM is a 43-year-old French national and his recent post was executive assistant manager of Grand Hyatt in Seoul.

"This will be his first time to work as general manager and I believe this is a good training ground for him and place to rear his family. His specialty is in Food and Beverage and that's why our restaurant in the hotel will go on a different level once he puts his touch into it," he said.

Nishikawa said that one of the new GM's early tasks will be overseeing the renovation of the hotel. "...Right now we are waiting for the design team to evaluate the building. Once pandemic restrictions are put at ease, they will come here. The team will come from Hong Kong, that is why it is quite difficult with the restrictions," he added.

A life in Hawaii is the prize after retirement but that may have to wait for a while, according to Nishikawa. "Due to the pandemic, the hotel didn't have much tourists or activity, so for two years I missed welcoming and talking to guests, walking around the restaurants, etc. and that is why I feel incomplete and I don't want to finish my hotel career like this," Nishikawa said.

At the same time, Nishikawa was offered a job as hotel manager of a newly opened Tokyu hotel located in Shinjuku—an offer that he has accepted. He said the hotel is located in a big city and his work will involve training personnel and overseeing the hotel's operations.

He said this opportunity will also allow him to be a tourism ambassador for the CNMI. "Customers come from all over the world. It is very famous with foreigners and when they ask me where I would recommend them to go on their next destination, I will say Saipan right away," Nishikawa said.

As Nishikawa count the days before he leaves for his next adventure, he said he will miss the beautiful scenery and people of Saipan. "I will miss jogging around American Memorial Park at sunset. It is a time that I feel close to nature. ...For the people, I know everybody is tired being in this pandemic for two years. But I also know, it is in their power to lead the economy to get the islands back on their feet again."

"I can't think of one or two unforgettable memories while on Saipan because everything is unforgettable. The CNMI is a part of my life and I sincerely say that this is my second home. I will definitely come back with a different role, and that would be as a tourist."

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement and Property Management
P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Phone: (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6824 I www.marianas.edu

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
NMCRQS 22-001

ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES
PLANNING, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES PROJECT

Northern Marianas College (The College) is soliciting for interested firms "Qualification Statements" for Architectural/Engineering Services for the Center for Research Extension and Development project.

The request for "Statement of Qualification (RQS)" packets are available at NMC, Procurement Office commencing 10:00am Friday, February 25, 2022 or Electronic packet email request to anita.camacho@marianas.edu.

Pre-submittal conference is schedule for 09:00am-10:00am, March 07, 2022 CNMI Via Zoom.

Attendance is not mandatory but is strongly recommended.

Qualification Statements Submissions
Due date and time: 10:00am, March 28, 2022 (CNMI)
Procurement & Property Management Office, Bldg. P, As Terlaje Campus

Paid for by 100% federal funds through the Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant.

This Request for Statement of Qualification under Article 7, "Local Business Preference" as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all Qualification Statements for any reason and waive any defect in said Qualification Statements, or cancel in part or its entirety this Request for Qualification Statements, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

Approved by:

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Manager

WANTED: GRAPHIC ARTIST

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

is looking for a full-time graphic artist.

The ideal candidate must know how to use InDesign, Photoshop, and Illustrator; can work fast and is able to work in a deadline-oriented environment; must be quick to grasp instructions; and must be able to create ad designs, concepts, and layouts based on knowledge of layout principles and esthetic design concepts.

Supercharge your graphic design career by learning the ins and outs of newspaper publishing!

Email your application and résumé to Mia Carreon at mia_carreon@tanholdings.com or drop them off at the HR office on the second floor of the JP Center building in Garapan, Saipan.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXII, Issue No. 45

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EDITORIAL

As isolationists cower, Ukrainian resistance and sanctions give Putin hell

Russia is now under an elevated state of nuclear readiness in response to unexpectedly strong Ukrainian resistance and an overwhelming global outcry against President Vladimir Putin's invasion of his sovereign neighbor. Putin no doubt thought this invasion would yield a quick ouster of Ukraine's leadership so he could install a Moscow-friendly government. Instead, he is resorting to acts of desperation to mask his embarrassment.

The invasion itself was the work of a madman, so it's anyone's guess what Putin might do next to protect his self-cultivated image as a steely eyed strongman. Still, Putin probably isn't crazy enough to deploy nuclear weapons, nor are his top generals so insane that they would accede to such a command. It's far too early in this war for the West to be talking about a face-saving way out for Putin. He deserves to feel the full brunt of the economic disaster he brought on his country, and that necessarily entails extending and deepening the sanctions imposed on Russia by the United States and its Western allies.

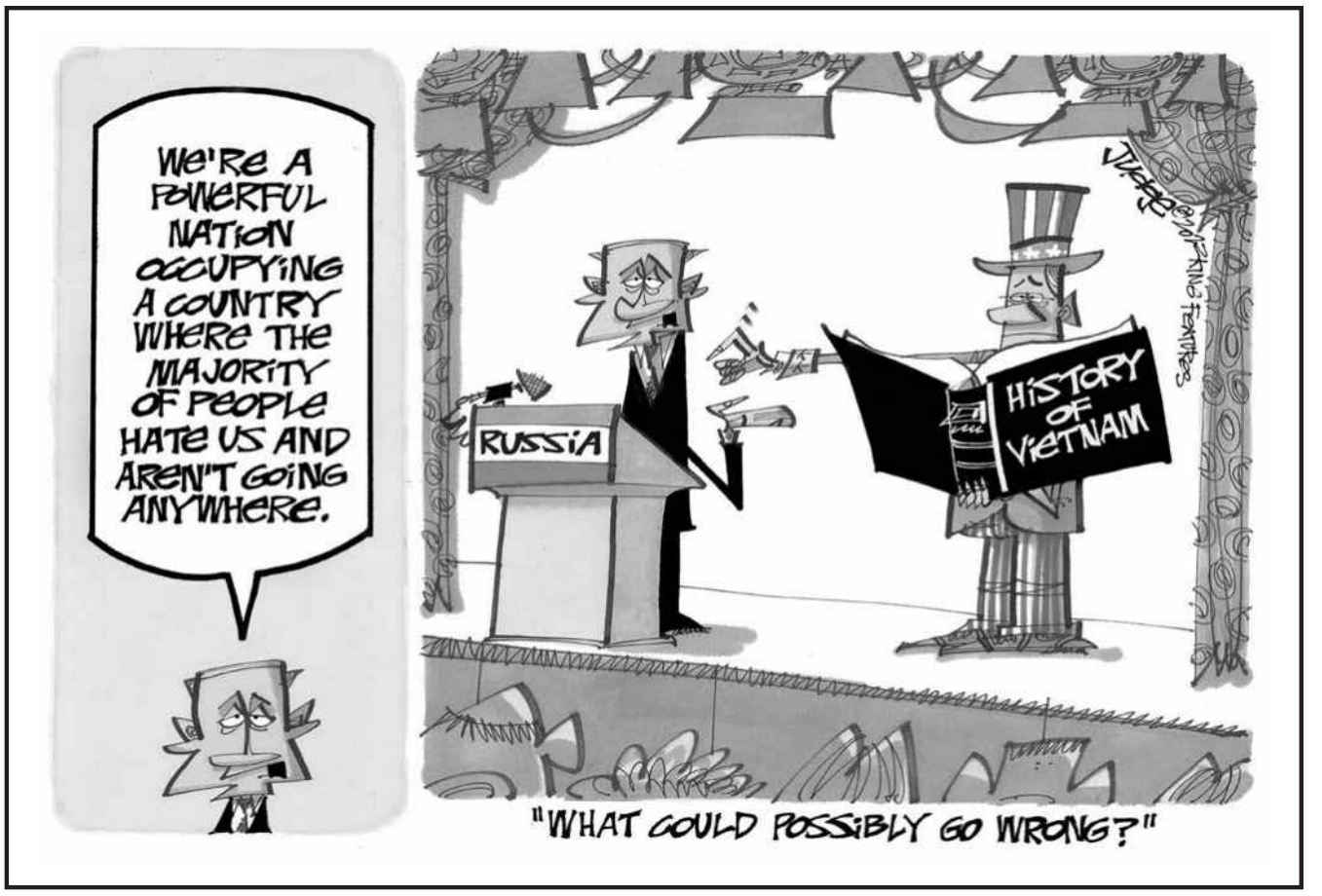
The longer those sanctions go on, the more Americans will feel pain in their pocketbooks. Removal of Russian petroleum exports will cause gasoline prices to go up, and inflation is likely to get worse before it gets better. Some conservative isolationists, including Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley, have argued that this is not America's fight and that Ukraine is not of enough strategic importance to warrant greater U.S. involvement. At last week's America First Political Action Conference, whose participants included two of Hawley's conservative House colleagues, attendees joined in a rousing cheer for Putin.

Like it or not, America is the leader of the free world and the most militarily powerful nation on Earth. There is no option for the United States to isolate itself while pretending that the expansionist aggression of its historic rival merits nothing more than shoulder-shrugging indifference here. It's precisely because the United States has stayed engaged and has led the charge for unprecedented economic and financial sanctions on Russia that Putin is now being forced to weigh the heavy long-term consequences of his invasion.

Russia's largest banks and richest oligarchs have lost access to international capital markets. Russian airlines have had to cancel thousands of flights as international airspace closes to them. Russian performers and sports stars find themselves shunned. Russian technology companies cannot purchase supplies from abroad. Even perennially neutral Switzerland is imposing restrictions on Russian banking.

American conservatives and liberals alike must recognize that this nation was built on a bedrock foundation of freedom, and Putin's goal is to restore Russia's Soviet-era grandeur by

See UKRAINIAN on Next Page


WE'RE A POWERFUL NATION OCCUPYING A COUNTRY WHERE THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE HATE US AND AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE.
RUSSIA
HISTORY OF VIETNAM
"WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG?"

'Only a cheater afraid of the rules of the game stacks the deck with five aces'

Editor's Note: Rep. Celina Babauta (D-Saipan), who chairs the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee, delivered the following remarks in the Senate Chamber during the afternoon session Monday, February 28, 2022. It is being published in two parts due to its length.

By CELINA BABAUTA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Celina Babauta is a member of the CNMI House of Representatives of the 22nd Legislature, representing Precinct 1.

Second of two parts

As to ***Rule 9 Record of Articles of Impeachment.***

(e) In transmitting the House Impeachment Record to the Senate Clerk, the House Clerk shall certify that the record is timely, complete and contains all documents and materials required by these impeachment rules. (2) - If the House Clerk fails to submit the appropriate certification within the [48]-hour period, then the House Impeachment Record shall be automatically stricken and the impeachment matter shall proceed in the Senate without an impeachment record and the Impeachment Prosecutor shall not be allowed to appear or participate in the Senate proceedings and the Senate hearing in any manner whatsoever. The Articles of Impeachment shall be presented to the Senate for final verdict and judgement in accordance with Rule 26 ***(Final Verdict and Judgment).***

This proposed rule is unconstitutional because any technical failure will result in the House losing its ability and authority under the applicable statutes and the CNMI Constitution to prosecute the case before the Senate.

As to ***Rule 9 (g)(1) and (2)*** *- The certified written request to either strike or supplement shall contain a copy of each document, audio recording and other material that the Impeached Official would like to have included or excluded as part of the House Impeachment Record together with a detailed explanation of why it is appropriate.*

Ni månu na demokrasia yan sisteman gobietnamento este na areklamento ni ma susesede na I ma inbestitiga, I ma akukusa, guiya para hu ayik yan hu detetmina hafa na dokumentu siha malago'ña para hu ma inklusu komo ebidensia gi anai guiya ma kokotte?

As to ***Rule 12. Impeached Official's Appearance and Answer.***

However, neither the impeached official, nor the legal counsel for the impeached official, shall be allowed to appear or participate in any of the Senate proceedings. The Articles of Impeachment shall be presented to the Senate for final verdict and judgement in accordance with Rule 26. If the impeached official, or legal counsel for the impeached official, appears and admits to any of the grounds for impeachment, then, without further proceedings, judgment shall be entered removing the impeached official from office.

This proposed rule appears to provide that a failure on the governor's part to file an answer within the required time means the governor or his counsel cannot participate in the Impeachment Hearing and the next step is to automatically go to Rule 26 – Closing Arguments. This unconstitutionally and expressly denies the House impeachment prosecutor to present its case if he or she so chooses, especially since the failure to answer by Gov. Torres is automatically deemed to be a denial of all the charges enumerated in the House Impeachment Resolution. Moreover, this proposed automatic default judgement to a denial of any charges by Gov. Torres is the opposite presumption in courts where the failure to respond is deemed to be more of an admission or guilt—hence default judgments are declared against the party that fails to answer.

Moreover, there is nothing in the proposed rules that seem to hold the governor to any standard of accountability. His written reply to any charges is not mandated to be submitted under penalty of perjury and the fact that the Senate president has chosen only one person as an Impeachment prosecutor is taken directly from Gov. Torres' demands upon the JGO last Dec. 10 wherein he wanted to select who he gets to investigate him, didn't want to be put under oath, and he wanted to select where and when his investigation will take place.

These rules are so lopsided and unreasonable that they violate the fundamental tenets of due process. These rules are intended to preclude the House of Representatives from having adequate opportunity to plead its case on the merits. *Åntes de hu fatto magi I hayi para hu presenta I kausa ginen I sanpapa'na guma'esta en hiluk lapesña, en titik papetna, en gedde kannaiña, ya en tape pachotña. Pot para en fan libiano, para hafa båsta en gåsta tiempon miyu para en na'guaha Senate hearing. Para hafa?*

Only a cheater afraid of the rules of the game stacks the deck with five aces. It is clear that this Senate body will prosecute Gov. Torres on a set of rules that are unlawful, unconstitutional

See CHEATER on Next Page

Village enhancements allow residents to preserve and sustain the environment

TOGETHER, WE CAN
By ANTONIO L. BORJA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Antonio L. Borja is the current vice chairman of the 17th CNMI State Board of Education and has been on the BOE since Nov. 2020. He also serves as the Commonwealth Ports Authority Tinian ports manager.

The Public School System continues to wade through the impact and challenges brought by the pandemic. This never-before crisis took a toll in our ability to provide our constitutional mandate of providing quality free educational opportunities to the nearly 10,000 elementary, middle and high school students on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

However, the impact of the pandemic was mitigated with the initiatives that have been put in place even before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, among which is our continuous aggressive recruitment, both locally and off-island, for highly qualified classroom teachers to mitigate learning losses. Our investment in technology as conduit to classroom learning also eased potential roadblocks (learning losses), then the pandemic prompted the immediate suspension in-person classroom learning.

PSS was among the first in the region to pioneer technology acquisition, through the One-Laptop initiative. Matter of fact, the federal government supports our direction for growth through the Education Stabilization Fund and the America Rescue Plan Act of 202 that funds several classroom learning initiatives designed to close learning gaps during this pandemic-driven learning environment.

We have designed programs that are responsive to the social, emotional, and mental learning aspect of all our public education stakeholders—students, teachers, administrators and staff, and our parents/community partners.

While there is no perfect solution to our troubles, I am proud to say that our public education system and our stakeholders have put in place a responsive system that is built upon our collective leadership and partnership; and, for us to navigate the challenges our PSS community is faced with, and our island community.

Our island community continue to see the hard work of our PSS family. We continue to put Students First, and, with this pandemic driven-learning environment, we have given greater emphasis on all of our public education stakeholders' safety and wellbeing.

To our PSS students, our largest public education stakeholders, I encourage you to reach out to your teachers, to your school leaders, to your school community—to *us*. Keep persevering. The unprecedented nature of this COVID-19 crisis will not deter us from getting through this together and come out stronger. We have been beset with challenges in the past and successfully made it through.

Continue learning, attend face-to-face and reap the benefits of what our schools offer. Attending school physically helps prevent learning loss, and allows you to access resources like tutoring, counseling books, and nutritious meals. Our schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will continue to be a safe place for you to learn and grow.

There are other activities students can participate in and stay engage. These are opportunities that help both the mental and emotional growth of our students. The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers is a strong partner of our school district. Primarily, GCEA's Marianas Village Pride Campaign has been embraced by our public schools. Recently, during the launch of the MVP Campaign, GCEA received great response from our public schools. They all stepped up to support beautification and revitalization work.

Under the MVP Campaign, GCEA affords our students opportunities to help beautify our community through activities, such as the MVP Flag Art Contest, Bus Stop Beautification Contest, and the most popular activity, the Adopt-A-Median program. These activities promote a sense of community: a sense of ownership, notwithstanding how it improves village road safety and around school campuses.

The MVP campaign is a unique platform that affords our students lifelong learning experiences. I encourage all our students and staff, and our PSS community to take stock of what we can do as one community during this pandemic-drive environment. Take part in the MVP campaign to improve our islands. These activities promote a sense of community.

As our central government initiates major steps to reopen our travel industry, the work of GCEA to partner with PSS in revitalizing our community is both laudable and timely. I am a firm believer that tourism will play a very critical role in spreading trust, and, our partnership with GCEA, is a step in the right direction.

We need everyone on board if we are keen at attracting travelers into our islands. It is imperative that we all get to move together, as one. Everyone has the responsibility to promote village safety and wellbeing, and this is an opportunity to do so. This is our home, and, we should take care of it.

Let's be proud of where we come from and let's stand alongside one another to improve our communities for the better. Taking ownership of our villages leads to preserving the integrity of our community and sustaining a healthy environment for future generations.

Together, We Can!

For more information, visit the GCEA at cnmieconomy.com, on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you

Due to being immunocompromised, I was fortunate last week in receiving my fourth dose of the Moderna SARS-CoV-2 vaccine. The vaccination officials were excited when administering the jab as I evidently was the first person on Saipan to receive their fourth shot.

While I'm often critical of certain aspects of the CNMI's COVID-19 response and control measures, I'm sincerely appreciative of everyone who works earnestly to help their fellow citizens during these difficult times. However, I especially want to take this opportunity to thank all the people involved with the CNMI vaccination efforts as they continue to do a great and vital job.

While I'm at it, I also want to thank all the essential and frontline workers—grocery store workers, utility staff and payment folks, solid waste pick-up people and drivers, drink water delivery guys, health care workers, teachers, mechanics and those people who keep the hardware stores stocked, who unload the shipping containers and fuel ships and everyone else who keeps civilization, such as it is, up and running.

Thank you.

To everyone else, the pandemic isn't over so please do your part and get your third jab (your fourth if you're immunocompromised). Continue wearing a mask when indoors and around people, maintain social distance and good hygiene, and do whatever you can to ensure excellent ventilation at home, at work, and in cars (if riding with others).

Mark Farmer
Garapan, Saipan

Biden's State of the Union was a repeat performance

By RAMESH PONNURU
Bloomberg View

Ramesh Ponnuru is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. He is the editor of National Review, a contributor to CNN and a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.*

The state of Joe Biden's presidency is enfeebled. His popularity has been dropping for months. The left and right wings of his party blame each other for that—and for the fact that his legislative agenda is stalled in a Congress his party controls.

Judging from Biden's State of the Union address, you can't say the White House is panicking about any of this. Biden didn't try to set a new direction, whether a moderate or a populist one. He didn't even announce major new initiatives. With the exception of his opening section about aiding Ukraine against Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion—the strongest part of the speech, which got the bipartisan applause it deserved—Biden stayed on familiar ground.

He said we could "end cancer as we know it," just as he did in his first address to Congress last spring. His plans to make government procurement "buy American" made an extended return appearance too. The internal politics of the Democratic party make it impossible for Biden to acknowledge that its push for new federal election laws, complete with restrictions on photo identification for voters, has been dead for months. So Biden called on Congress one more time to pass the bills as though they had a real chance.

Democrats have been telling themselves that Americans would like them better if only they knew more about the party's policy agenda: Just look at how well its components poll. So he itemized the spending programs he has been seeking. After it became clear that we were going to have high inflation for a while, Democrats decided to rebrand their existing agenda as a way to bring prices down. Nobody appears to be buying it, but Biden is still selling.

He even expanded on this argument, claiming that his Donald Trump-lite goal of making more things in America would bring inflation down. That might be popular, but it doesn't bear a moment of thought. To prefer a domestic to a foreign source is, after all, to downgrade low costs as a priority. It is to say that we would be better off with more expensive supply chains.

There is, nonetheless, a political case for Biden to keep slogging through. He can reasonably conclude that his policy achievements, from a bipartisan infrastructure bill to a massive COVID-relief package, are impressive given the narrow margins and severe partisanship in Congress; they look small only in comparison to the exaggerated expectations his party had after winning the Senate two weeks before his inauguration.

The midterm elections look like they will be brutal for the Democrats, but Biden's two Democratic predecessors went through similar experiences and got re-elected. And what's the alternative for Biden? Moving left wouldn't get Congress to pass anything, and moving right would widen the fissures in the party.

And maybe staying the course will work. Biden was able to celebrate a decline in severe cases of COVID and take a bit of credit for the great unmasking of America. (Changing its mask recommendations right before Biden's speech is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's latest gift to the prestige of public health.) He also touted job gains that COVID's fading has made possible. Perhaps these trends will continue, and Republicans will find new ways to render themselves unlikable. Maybe the public mood will change before the election, and Democrats will suffer mild losses instead of a catastrophe.

But there is another possibility, one hinted at by Biden's painfully failed ad-libs. ("You can't build a wall high enough to keep out a vaccine.") It is that the public is not merely in a sour mood, does not just have a negative opinion of Biden's time in office. It is that the public has reached a judgment—and the judgment is that Biden isn't up to the job.

UKRAINIAN

From Page 10

military force while using murder and imprisonment to silence all dissent. Those who cheer Putin are celebrating subjugation and oppression. With the threat of nuclear escalation looming, which is more likely to make Putin stand down: unified defiance under American leadership, or isolationist apathy and cowardice?

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CHEATER

From Page 10

and, more importantly, slanted in his favor. The fix is in. And to think that these rules are to be used as a template for future proceedings is preposterous. Rule 7 is so problematic as it is an infringement on sole Constitutional prerogative of the House of Representatives to initiate impeachment proceedings and causes a chilling effect that it will deter any future speaker from initiating impeachment proceedings, knowing that he will have to serve as an impeachment prosecutor.

The burden of proof is left unstated in both national and local impeachment proceedings because ultimately, it is left to the individual conscience of the respective body. The burden of proof should be nothing more than common sense!

Whatever former governor Benigno R. Fitial did nine years ago pales in comparison to the amount of money that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Mrs. Diann Tudela Torres have squandered from the CNMI Treasury.

These rules basically create a theory of how Gov. Torres is not guilty and then work backwards from there, creating such arbitrary nuisances such that if the House clerk does not paginate the documents, or if he or she fails to request for and get the permission of the Senate president in order to submit paper evidence, can possibly terminate the entire proceeding in order to fit your predisposed conclusions.

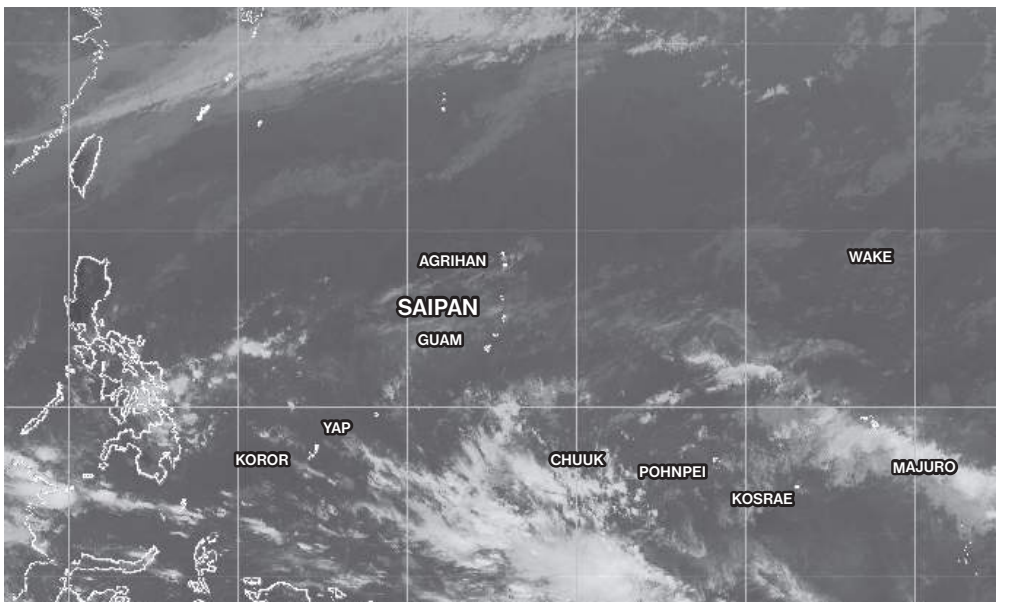
Si yu'us ma'åase' yan buenas dias.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms	Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
85º / 75º	85º / 76	86º / 75º	86º / 75º	85º / 76º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:22 AM, THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

This morning`s Doppler radar imagery shows scattered showers crossing the Marianas, with a few moderately intense rain cores in some of the convective elements. Altimetry and buoy data indicates seas have fallen to near 7 feet, with a water temperature of 82 degrees observed at Ritidian.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	28 / 25 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F
Pohnpei	AM Rain	29/ 26 °F
Kosrae	Showers	29 / 26 °F
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 27 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:27 AM	18:26 PM
Saturday	06:27 AM	18:26 PM
Sunday	06:26 AM	18:26 PM
Monday	06:25 AM	18:26 PM
Tuesday	06:25 AM	18:27 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:20	-	-
Saturday	-	00:32 PM	12:20
Sunday	-	01:23 PM	13:19
Monday	-	02:10 PM	14:18
Tuesday	-	02:56 PM	15:15

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	24 / 17 °F
Beijing	Sunny/Wind	1 / -1°F
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	23 / 18 °F
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	26 / 19 °F
London	Light Rain	12 / 4°F
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	16 / 9 °F
Manila	Mostly Sunny	34/ 23 °F
Melbourne	Cloudy	31 / 18 °F
Miami	Sunny	26 / 23 °F
New York	Mostly Sunny	5 / -1 °F
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	12 / 6 °F
Paris	Partly Cloudy	13 / 0 °F
Busan	Partly Cloudy/Wind	15 / 6 °F
Rome	PM Showers	14 / 4 °F
Salem	Mostly Sunny	27 / 11 °F
San Francisco	AM Clouds/PM Sun/Wind	13 / 7 °F
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	14 / -1 °F
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	11 / 5 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	8 / 1 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
02:53 AM	Low Tide	-0.17
09:14 AM	High Tide	1.84
3:22 PM	Low Tide	0.57
8:48 PM	High Tide	1.81

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 14, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:30am	8:20am	1, 3, 5
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 30)
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA116	8:00am	8:46am	7
UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	2, 4, 7
UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/116	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/116	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 7 via Guam
UA184/116	10:55pm	8:46am+1	6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 30)
TW9307	9:00AM	Q2:30PM	4, 7
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Chamorro talk show features Dela Cruz

Former chief justice Jose Dela Cruz will be the featured speaker during the Chamorro Cultural Talk Show on Marianas Agupa' Talk Show tomorrow, March 5, at 10am.

Dela Cruz will be speaking on the subject Istorian NMI gi Asuntun Lai, Gubietnamentu yan Pulitika.

Inetnun Kutturan Natibun Marianas/Kkoor Aramasal Marianas president Isidoro T. Cabrera said the Chamorro Cultural Talk Show is a community project that aims to celebrate and recognize our cultural experts and encourage public interactions in humanities-related topics including culture, tradition, history, language, traditional healing practices, local names of places in the CNMI, music, among others.

The talk show will be every other Saturday starting at 10am. Cultural experts will be presenting in Chamorro, followed by a Q&A call-in from the public and via social media.

The public is also encouraged to participate in a survey after each talk show to help the association improve the show and identify future shows and cultural experts. If more than 20 people respond, four prizes will be awarded from a randomly selected group of respondents within two weeks after each show. Details about the survey will be provided during the talk show and posted on the Marianas Agupa' Talk Show Facebook https://www.facebook.com/Marianas-Agupa-Show-278884342457682 or https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5heKROsqcSVHg5ztadbDHA.

Here is the Surveymonkey link for the March 5, 2022 Talk Show: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GTCFYR9

This project was made possible, in part, by support from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, a non-profit, private corporation funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the American Rescue Plan and the NEH Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan initiative.

Listen live on Marianas Agupa' Show on KWAW Magic 100.3 FM and streaming on the Internet via Tunein Radio, YouTube, and Facebook. ***(PR)***

Power interruption on Saturday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be a scheduled power service interruption on March 5, 2022, from 6am to 12pm affecting Chalan Kanoa Beach Road (from LF Market south toward I-Zone in Chalan Kanoa).

The first momentary outage is from 6am. to 6:30am, affecting Chalan Kanoa Beach Rd. (Mt. Carmel Cathedral, Chalan Kanoa Dr., Konsolacion St., Brigida St., Carmen Av., Bernardo St., and Barbara Av.).

This will be followed by another momentary outage from 11:30am to 12pm, affecting Chalan Kanoa Beach Road (Mt. Carmel Cathedral, Chalan Kanoa Dr., Konsolacion St., Brigida St., Carmen Av., Bernardo St., Barbara Av., Surf Club Restaurant, Sandy Beach Homes, San Isidro Ave., Juan Nong St., Hamalap Ln., Alupyang Pl., Atuhong Pl. and Hopwood Middle School).

These outages will allow CUC to replace a 45-foot wooden primary pole with a concrete pole and replace the air brake switch to a non-conduit type operated ABS along Beach Road fronting the Villagomez building in Chalan Kanoa.

No water well or wastewater facility will be affected.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

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Attorney for Petitioner David Taitano Camacho

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ANTONIO MUNA CAMACHO, Decedent. : Civil Action No. 22-0017 : NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS : DATE: MARCH 17, 2022 TIME: 10:00 A.M. JUDGE: CAMACHO

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE ANTONIO MUNA CAMACHO HIS ESTATE:
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that David Taitano Camacho has petitioned the Superior Court of Northern Marianas Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Antonio Muna Camacho, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plate Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya) P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. All interested persons and entities should appear at the hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by the law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or claim(s) will be baited. A copy of your claims should also be sent to ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the address hereinabove indicated.

Respectfully submitted this 11th day of February 2022.

/s/_____
CLERK OF COURT/SEPUTY CLERK

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ, F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547 | FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of IRMINIA VICTORIA B. CEPEDA, Also known as VICTORIA CEPEDA Deceased. : CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0039 : **NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Rebecca C. White has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Irminia Victoria B. Cepeda, also known as Victoria Cepeda, Deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on March 31, 2022, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. of the said day.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Irminia Victoria B. Cepeda, also known as Victoria Cepeda, Deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the date of first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 522 CHRB, SAIPAN, MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever be barred.

Dated: 23 February 2022
/s/ Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ, F0122
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ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of Rosa Lisua Moteisou, Deceased. : CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0040 : **NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Rebecca C. White has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Rosa Lisua Motesiou, Deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on March 31, 2022, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. of the said day.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Rosa Lisua Motesiou, Deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the date of first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 522 CHRB, SAIPAN, MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever be barred.

DatedL 23 February 2022

/s/ Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge

Joey P. San Nicolas
Attorney-at-Law
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Tel: (670) 234-7659 | Fax: (670) 234-9218
Email: jpsn@sannicolaslaw.net
Attorney for Petitioner John DLR Gonzales

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOSEPHA PANGELINAN DELOS SANTOS, Decedent. : Civil Action No.: 21-0275-CV : **NOTICE OF HEARING** : **NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF: JOSEPHA PANGELINAN DELOS SANTOS, DECEASED.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Petition by John DLR Gonzales for the issuance of letters of administration of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 17th day of March, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at NMI Superior Court Room 220, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@sannicolaslaw.net.

Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, JOSEPHA PANGELINAN DELOS SANTOS, or of her estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 17th day of February, 2022.

/s/ Hon. Joseph N. Camacho
Associate Judge

CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The CNMI Department of Commerce, Central Statistics Division is preparing to conduct the CNMI 2022 Prevailing Wage Study (PWS) survey to begin on March 01, 2022 and notifies all businesses and employers in the CNMI to log on to the CSD Data Collection Portal and complete the PWS survey questionnaire.

All businesses and employers, with and with no employees, are urged to complete this survey before March 15, 2022.

Data Collection Portal Link:
http://cnmidata.commerce.gov.mp/

STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

P.O. Box 10007 I Saipan, MP 96950 I Phone: (670) 664-1712 I Email: cnmiswdb@dol.gov.mp

VISION: *"To integrate a seamless workforce development system that meets the needs of employers, job-seekers, workers, and youths in order to supply quality employees for the dynamic economy of the CNMI."*

PUBLIC NOTICE

The CNMI's State Workforce Development Board in collaboration with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) core program partners (DOL Workforce Investment Agency, NMC Adult Education State Office, and Office of Vocational Rehabilitation) will be modifying portions of the CNMI's Unified State Plan for Program Years 2022-2023.

Proposed modifications to the plan include:

- A description of current economic, workforce, and workforce development activities impact analyses of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- State strategic goals to achieve the vision of the CNMI "To integrate a seamless workforce development system that meets the needs of employers, job-seekers, workers, and youths in order to supply quality employees for the dynamic economy of the CNMI."
- Performance goals for Program Year 2022 and 2023.
- Update the State Operating Systems for the SWDB and the core programs.

The public is invited to provide input or comments on the proposed changes during a thirty (30) day public comment period beginning February 10, 2022 and ending on March 10, 2022.

There will be public forums on Wednesday, March 02, 2022 and Tuesday, March 08, 2022 for in-person and virtual attendance.

Tinian:
Date: Wednesday, March 02, 2022
Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm
Venue: JC Café

Rota:
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2022
Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm
Venue: Tiana's Café

Space is limited and on a first-come basis for in-person attendance. Virtual participation is available by request. Please RSVP to cnmiswdb@dol.gov.mp, cnmiwioa@dol.gov.mp, or calling 670-664-1708/1704/1713.

A copy of the CNMI 2020-2023 Unified State Plan may be found on www.marianaslabor.net or www.ovrgov.net.

Please submit all comments in writing to cnmiswdb@dol.gov.mp, lorraine.maui@marianas.edu, or arlene@ovrgov.net with the subject line CNMI State Plan 2022. The deadline for comment submission is Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 4:30pm.

/s/ Velma Palacios
Chairperson

Date: February 10, 2022

This announcement is paid in full through a grant by the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration.

MISSION: *Empowering, integrating, implementing, and innovating the workforce needs of the CNMI."*

Business

States launch probe into TikTok's effect on kids' health

WASHINGTON (AP)—State attorneys general have launched a nationwide investigation into TikTok and its possible harmful effects on young users' mental health, widening government scrutiny of the wildly popular video platform.

The investigation was announced Wednesday by a number of states led by California, Florida, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, Tennessee and Vermont.

U.S. lawmakers and federal regulators have criticized TikTok, citing practices and computer-driven promotion of content they say can endanger the physical and mental health of young users. The platform has an estimated 1 billion monthly users and is especially popular with teens and younger children.

Last month, Texas opened an investigation into TikTok's alleged violations of children's privacy and facilitation of human trafficking.

"Our children are growing up in the age of social media—and many feel like they need to measure up to the filtered versions of reality that they see on their screens," California Attorney General Rob Bonta said in a news release. "We know this takes a devastating toll on children's mental health and well-being."

Bonta said the investigation aims determine if TikTok is violating the law in promoting its platform to young people.

Government officials and child-safety advocates maintain that TikTok's computer algorithms pushing video content to users can promote eating disorders and even self-harm and suicide to young viewers.

TikTok has said it focuses on age-appropriate experiences, noting that some features, such as direct messaging, are not available to younger users. The company says it has tools in place, such as screen-time management, to help young people and parents moderate how long children spend on the app and what they see.

"We care deeply about building an experience that helps to protect and support the well-being of our community, and appreciate that the state attorneys general are focusing on the safety of younger users," the company said Wednesday. "We look forward to providing information on the many safety and privacy protections we have for teens."

Early last year, after federal regulators ordered TikTok to disclose how its practices affect children and teenagers, the platform tightened its privacy practices for users under 18.

As its popularity has swelled, TikTok has come under a barrage of criticism from state officials, federal regulators, consumer advocates and lawmakers of both parties. Republicans have especially homed in on the company's ties to China. TikTok is owned by Beijing-based ByteDance.

Australia fully open to travel as last state reopens border

PERTH, Australia (AP)—Australia was fully open to vaccinated travelers after Western Australia on Thursday became the last state to lift border restrictions.

Western Australia, which covers one third of the nation's land area, closed its borders to most international and interstate travelers in 2020 to slow the spread of COVID-19.

But the state lifted restrictions on Thursday four months after Sydney began its staged reopening of quarantine-free travel and more than week after all vaccinated tourists became eligible for visas.

Perth's airport was the scene of emotional reunions as the first of a scheduled 22 domestic flights and five international flights began arriving on Thursday.

Western Australia had successfully stopped the local spread of the coronavirus throughout the pandemic by contract tracing and isolating carriers until the highly contagious omicron variant arrived this year.

The state now reports more than 1,000 new infections every day.

"Australia is now finally back together," Qantas Airways chief executive Alan Joyce said. "This day has been a long time coming."

On Wednesday, 61 deaths from COVID-19 were reported across Australia. None was reported that day in Western Australia, Tasmania or the Australian Capital Territory.

Amazon shuttering its physical bookstores and 4-star shops

NEW YORK (AP)—Amazon is closing all of its brick-and-mortar bookstores, as well as its 4-star shops and pop up locations, as the online retail behemoth reworks its physical footprint.

The Seattle-based company said Wednesday that the move, which affects 66 stores in the U.S. and two in the United Kingdom, will enable it to concentrate its efforts on Amazon Fresh, Whole Foods Market, its convenience concept called Amazon Go and its upcoming Amazon Style stores. Amazon Style, which will sell fashion and accessories, is set to open in a Southern California mall later this year.

"We remain committed to building great, long-term physical retail experiences and technologies and we're working closely with our affected employees to help them find new roles within Amazon," the company said in a statement.

It couldn't be learned immediately how many Amazon workers are being affected.

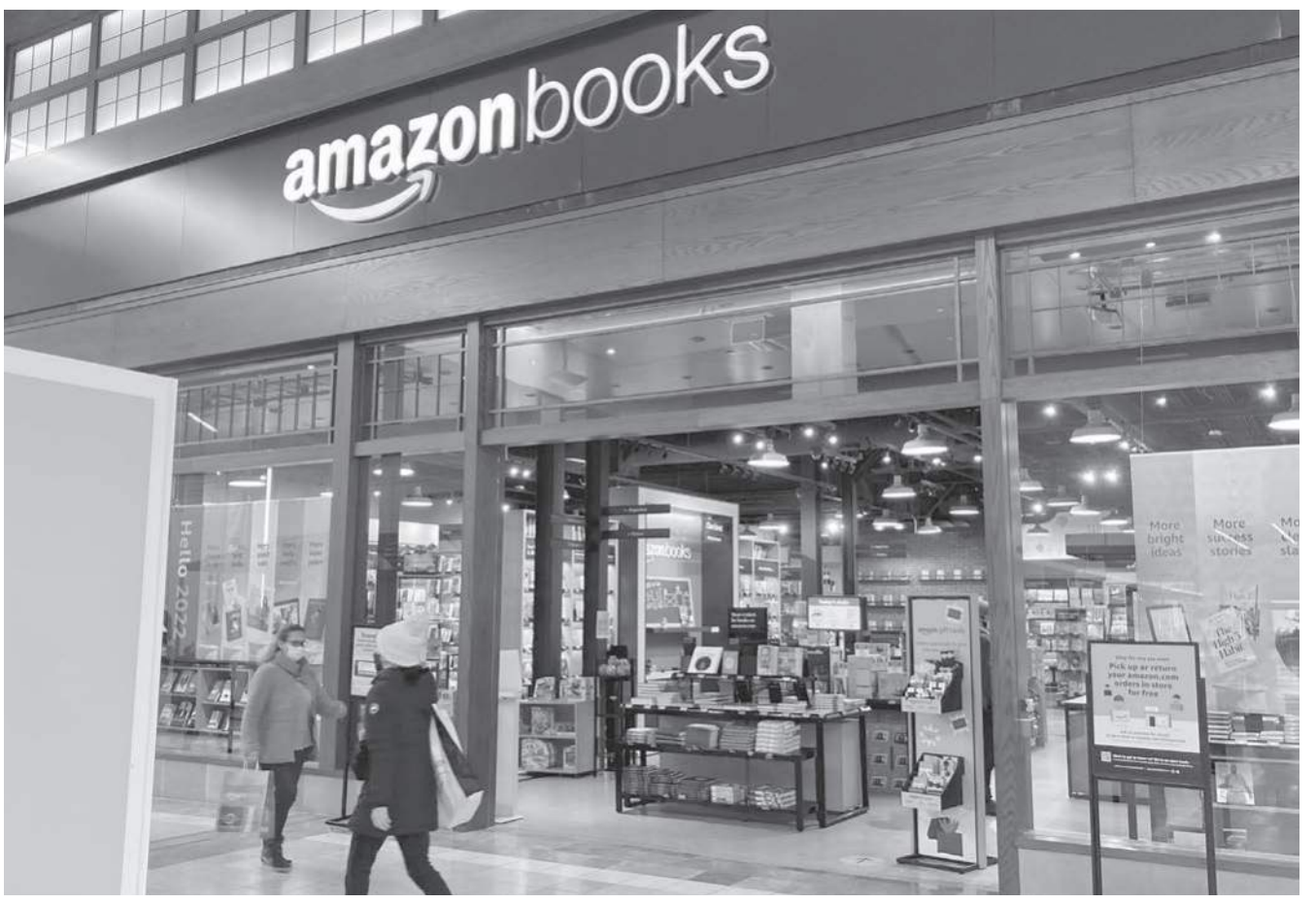
Amazon opened its first brick-and-mortar bookstore in 2015, two decades after it began selling books online and helped drive a number of shops out of business. Amazon's 4-star shops, which first made their debut in 2018, carry a limited selection of best-selling products from top categories that Amazon.com sells, including devices, consumer electronics, toys and games.

The move comes as Amazon.com Inc.'s overall revenue growth is slowing, and it's looking for new ways to reignite sales.

Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData Retail, said the strategy comes as a surprise. He said he believes it's an acknowledgement that the bookstores weren't delivering the returns Amazon was looking for.

Saunders said he thinks the main problem with Amazon's non-food stores is that they lacked a real purpose even though the merchandise was well-presented.

"They were designed for people to pop in and browse rather than as destinations where people would head on a mission to buy something," he wrote in a note on Wednesday. He noted that ultimately that wasn't good for driving customer traffic, especially in an era where people are visiting shops less.



AP

People walk by an Amazon Books store at the Westfield Garden State Plaza shopping mall in Paramus, N.J., Monday, Jan. 10, 2022.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China's slowing economy in spotlight as legislature meets

BEIJING (AP)—China's ruling Communist Party is temporarily turning away from its longer-term ambitions to focus on pulling the economy out of a slump as the country heads into the annual meeting of its ceremonial legislature. The National People's Congress, usually used to showcase big initiatives, is overshadowed this year by a "policy pivot" begun in December by President Xi Jinping's government to revive anemic consumer spending and housing sales. Beijing is easing off multi-year campaigns to cut surging debt that Chinese leaders worry is dangerously high, rein in carbon emissions and narrow the gap between a wealthy elite and China's poor majority. "They probably need to be put on the back burner for this year, while actively prioritizing stabilization goals," said Helen Qiao, the chief China economist for Bank of America. The NPC session, which opens Saturday, takes place against a backdrop of Russia's attack on Ukraine, which has pushed up oil prices and added to uncertainty over a global recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

Illinois' ex-House speaker charged in $3M bribery schemes

CHICAGO (AP)—Michael Madigan, the former speaker of the Illinois House and for decades one of the nation's most powerful legislators, was charged with a nearly $3 million racketeering and bribery scheme Wednesday, becoming the most prominent politician swept up in a federal investigation of entrenched government corruption in the state. Madigan, 79, is charged in the 22-count indictment with racketeering conspiracy, using interstate facilities in aid of bribery, wire fraud and attempted extortion. Madigan, who resigned from the Legislature a year ago, was the longest-serving state House speaker in modern U.S. history and was nicknamed the "Velvet Hammer" for his insistence on strict party discipline. A procession of senior Illinois politicians, including three governors, was charged during his tenure, but politicians long believed the savvy Madigan would never be among them.

Tokyo court gives ex-Nissan exec Kelly suspended sentence

TOKYO (AP)—A Tokyo court gave a suspended sentence to Greg Kelly, a former American executive at Nissan Motor charged with underreporting his boss Carlos Ghosn's pay. The verdict announced Thursday of a 6-month sentence suspended for three years will allow Kelly to return to the U.S. even if prosecutors appeal. Kelly was arrested in November 2018 at the same time as Ghosn, former Nissan chairman and head of the Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi alliance. Both have insisted they are innocent, arguing that the money at the center of the charges was never paid or decided. Chief judge Kenji Shimotsu said the court found Kelly not guilty of some counts and guilty of charges for one year only, fiscal 2017.

Nation

US, allies weaponizing sanctions to curb Russian aggression

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden and U.S. allies in a matter of days weaponized the global economy against Russia for invading Ukraine, and the resulting destruction has been devastatingly fast.

The sanctions almost instantly put Russian President Vladimir Putin on the defensive against skyrocketing inflation. Russia's central bank, unable to tap foreign reserves, tried to use what resources it had to slow the ruble's steep decline.

It goes unchallenged among economists that Russia's $1.5 trillion economy, previously about 7% the size of the U.S. economy, will shrivel further in ways that could be unprecedented for a nuclear power.

There is a push for even greater financial penalties. Ukrainian parliament member Oleksandra Ustinova met with U.S. senators on Tuesday to advocate for more sanctions immediately if Ukraine is to hold off Russian attacks.

"It works," Ustinova said of the sanctions while sitting in the offices of Pennsylvania Sen. Pat Toomey. "In Ukraine, people are standing in line to get guns. In Russia, people are standing at the ATM machines because they understand they might not be able to get this money in two days, or, it will be like twice as less."

The U.S. and its allies have retaliated against Russia with a series of financial attacks, reflecting a massive change in how conflicts can be waged in a world that is globalized, digital and highly dependent on accessing money.

There have been economic targets in the past that depended on military maneuvers such as factory bombings, blockades and the capture of strategic resources. But the waves of sanctions unleashed over the past week have demonstrated how financial markets can respond faster than setting up conventional weapons.

The sanctions also are a substitute for direct military action against Russia by the U.S. and its allies. Biden has repeatedly said there will be no U.S. troops on the ground, even as weapons and materiel are provided to Ukraine.

The impact of the sanctions likely depends on the pace of the fighting and whether Russia takes Ukraine or finds itself in a slog in which the pain of any sanctions becomes more acute over time. But the value of the ruble has fallen about 35% since Friday, according to the financial data firm FactSet. The sharp decline of the currency has triggered higher inflation, higher interest rates and shortages of goods that hurt regular people in Russia.

"Ordinary Russians will no doubt suffer, but if Ukraine succumbs quickly, and its government is overthrown, Putin is unlikely to face enough internal political pressure to force him to back down," said Benn Steil, director of international economics at the Council on Foreign Relations. "If the conflict settles into an extended bloody stalemate, however, the sanctions may force him to withdraw and declare victory."

But Steil cautioned that the sanctions and the freezing of Russian central bank assets could cause other countries to move away from using the U.S. dollar in international transactions, making it easier for them to resist the kind of pressure now being put on Russia. That could possibly weaken the dollar's prominence in the world economy.

"The moves will also accelerate movement away from the U.S. dollar as the dominant settlement currency for international transactions," Steil said. "China will take the sanctions as a warning that it, too, must take firmer steps to reduce dollar dependence."

New Biden pandemic plan: Closer to normal for the nation

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's time for America to stop letting the coronavirus "dictate how we live," President Joe Biden's White House declared Wednesday, outlining a strategy to allow people to return to many normal activities safely after two years of pandemic disruptions.

One highlight is a new "test to treat" plan to provide free antiviral pills at pharmacies to people who test positive for the virus.

The 90-page National COVID-19 Preparedness Plan spells out initiatives and investments to continue to drive down serious illness and deaths from the virus, while preparing for potential new variants and providing employers and schools the resources to remain open.

"We know how to keep our businesses and our schools open with the tools that we have at our disposal," said White House COVID-19 coordinator Jeff Zients.

Meanwhile, 140 million Americans, or 43% have now had COVID, according to a new assessment from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That estimate comes from a surveillance program that tested nearly 72,000 blood samples that were sent to commercial labs from late December to late January. The samples were checked for antibodies from infection, and were distinguishable from antibodies that came from vaccination.

More than 947,000 people in the U.S. have died from the virus according to the CDC.

Wednesday's White House announcement follows Biden's Tuesday night State of the Union speech, in which he pointed to progress against the pandemic since last year, with a dramatic reduction in cases, along with readily available vaccines and the likelihood of new tests and therapeutics soon becoming more accessible.

"This plan lays out the roadmap to help us fight COVID-19 in the future as we move America from crisis to a time when COVID-19 does not disrupt our daily lives and is something we prevent, protect against, and treat," the White House said. "We are not going to just 'live with COVID.' Because of our work, we are no longer going to let COVID-19 dictate how we live."

California mass killing raises troubling questions

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—The father who fatally shot his three daughters and a man at a California church this week repeatedly threatened to kill his estranged girlfriend and scared their girls so much they cried and one bit off her fingernails, according to a restraining order that was supposed to keep him away from guns and bullets.

But 39-year-old David Mora had both when he showed up Monday for a supervised visit with his daughters, ages 13, 10 and 9. He shot them, the chaperone he and his ex-girlfriend had agreed could oversee the weekly visits, and then himself.

The violence at The Church in Sacramento, a nondenominational Christian place of worship, raised troubling questions: How did Mora get a gun? Should his arrest a week earlier on felony charges have prompted postponement of his visitation? And what pushed him over the edge to commit such a heinous act two days before his middle daughter turned 11?

The Sacramento County Sheriff's Office has said little publicly about what investigators have learned. "We are not disclosing the type of weapon at this time. How he came to possess a firearm will be part of the investigation," Sgt. Rodney Grassmann said in a text message Wednesday.

Mora's five-year restraining order barred him from possessing firearms, and on a court document he submitted he denied having any. Moreover, his ex-girlfriend, who had lived with him and their daughters, didn't believe he had any firearms and so didn't seek what's known as a "red flag" restraining order.

Imposing such an order puts the person's name into databases that are checked when someone tries to purchase a weapon. That kind of order stopped a former University of California, Los Angeles lecturer from buying a handgun in Colorado last fall. Matthew Harris was arrested last month after making violent threats that prompted UCLA officials to cancel on-campus instruction for a day.

AP

A memorial for the three young girls, who were slain by their father at The Church in Sacramento, is seen outside the church in Sacramento Calif., Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

Faith Whitmore, chief executive of the Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center that provides services to victims of domestic abuse, said a case manager and an attorney who worked with Mora's estranged girlfriend last April had no indication Mora had a gun and so there was no reason to seek the "red flag" order.

"At the time that she submitted the petition for the restraining order, she had checked that he did not have a weapon," Whitmore said. "He may or may not have had it, but she was not aware of it."

A five-year restraining order is the most significant of its type and underscores the threat he posed, Whitmore said. In her petition for the restraining order, the woman said he repeatedly threatened to kill her.

"Three years is sort of normal, or less. Five years means she (the court commissioner who issued the restraining order) is taking it very, very seriously," Whitmore said.

With no indication that Mora had a weapon, there would be no reason for a firearms removal hearing, said Julianna Lee, a supervising attorney who oversees domestic violence and family law cases at the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles. A hearing can lead to a search of a person's home.

ACROSS THE NATION

New Mexico officer dies in chase of suspected kidnapper

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—Law enforcement agencies were searching the Santa Fe area for a suspected kidnapper whose flight from police into oncoming traffic led to fatal car crashes Wednesday, killing a police officer pursuing him as well as at least one motorist who had nothing to do with the chase. Police on Wednesday night identified the officer killed as Robert Duran, a 43-year-old senior officer assigned to the department's patrol section. They said Duran joined the department in January 2015. He leaves behind a wife and two teenage sons. "Officer Duran was well respected and loved by his peers," Santa Fe interim Police Chief Paul Joye said. "We as a department and as individuals are still grieving and processing his loss."

Santa Fe Mayor Alan Webber vowed to deliver justice to the fallen officer as police from multiple agencies continued the search.

Adoptive parents arrested in killing of 2 California boys

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The adoptive parents of two small California boys who were reported missing in 2020 have been charged with killing the children, although their bodies have not been found, authorities said Wednesday. Trezell West and Jacqueline West were arrested Tuesday night on murder and other charges in an indictment returned by a grand jury, Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer told a news conference in Bakersfield. Orrin West, 4, and his brother Orson, 3, were reported missing from their family's backyard in the desert town of California City on Dec. 21, 2020. A huge search by law enforcement agencies and community members failed to find them. "This morning, I'm saddened to announce that the investigation has revealed that Orrin and Orson West are deceased," Zimmer said. "The investigation has also revealed that they died three months before their adoptive parents reported them missing."

Asia

500,000 people on flood alert as rain lashes Sydney

SYDNEY (AP)—Around 500,000 people in Sydney and its surrounds had by Thursday been told to evacuate or prepare to flee floodwaters as torrential rain lashed an extraordinarily long stretch of the Australian east coast.

Rivers were rising in Australia's most populous city, home to 5 million, with New South Wales' State Emergency Services Minister Steph Cooke warning of "treacherous weather conditions" over the next 24 hours.

Australia's Bureau of Meteorology warned of life-threatening flash flooding and damaging winds with peak gusts in excess of 90 kilometers (56 miles) an hour.

Major flooding was expected along several rivers in and around Sydney. Dozens of suburbs were on high alert.

The State Emergency Service issued evacuation orders to 200,000 residents and evacuation warnings had been sent to another 300,000.

New South Wales Premier Dominic Perrottet urged residents to take the orders seriously.

AP

Residents look over a flooded road near Windsor on the outskirts of Sydney, Australia, Thursday, March 3, 2022.

"We do believe that things will get worse before they get better," Perrottet said.

Minor flood warnings were also issued for coastal communities as far as 200 kilometers (120 miles) south of Sydney.

Floodwaters were also rising in Brisbane, Australia's third-most populous city 730 kilometers (450 miles) north of Sydney, as severe thunder storms struck.

Hailstones 5 to 6 centimeters (2 inches) wide pounded the town of Inglewood, 270 kilometers (170 miles) southwest of Brisbane, early Thursday, the Bureau of Meteorology said.

Extraordinarily heavy rain brought flash floods to the Queensland state coast 500 kilometers (310 miles) north of the capital Brisbane last week and a south-moving low-pressure system had since brought the rain south of Sydney.

The flooding has claimed 14 lives in Queensland and neighboring New South Wales since Feb. 22, when the body of a 63-year-old woman was recovered from a submerged car at Belli Park, north of Brisbane.

In New South Wales, a 54-year-old man was found Friday in a submerged SUV in Matcham, 90 kilometers (50 miles) north of Sydney.

Most recently, a man in his 70s was found in his flooded apartment Wednesday in Lismore, New South Wales. Four people died in the town of 28,000.

Several Brisbane suburbs remain flooded after the river that snakes through the city center peaked on Monday.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Assistant Commissioner John Cawcutt said hundreds of people were calling for help in Brisbane—home to 2.6 million people—and its surrounds with heavy rain causing flash flooding.

"We've got high winds and of course we've got the potential for flash flooding because of the already sodden ground out there," Cawcutt told Nine Network television.

"Because of the saturation, creeks are rising very, very quickly—drains, stormwater areas, water is bubbling up from below ground so it's right across Brisbane," Cawcutt added.

He described the dangerous weather extending north of Brisbane and south of Sydney as an "enormous event."

Bureau of Meteorology forecaster Laura Boekel said thunderstorms brought the chance of more flooding, extending 450 kilometers (280 miles) north from Brisbane to Bundaberg during the next day or two.

"This is a very dangerous and potentially life-threatening situation for southeast Queensland," Boekel said.

UN envoy: Afghan failing economy heads to 'irreversibility'

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. special envoy for Afghanistan said Wednesday the international community hasn't done enough to revive the country's economy as it heads toward "a point of irreversibility," while the U.S. said it is the responsibility of the ruling Taliban to create the conditions for economic stability.

The envoy, Deborah Lyons, told the U.N. Security Council that Afghanistan is nearing "a tipping point that will see more businesses close, more people unemployed and falling into poverty."

Afghanistan's long-troubled economy has been in a tailspin since the Taliban takeover Aug. 15 as U.S. and NATO forces were in the final stages of their chaotic withdrawal from the country after 20 years.

Nearly 80% of the previous government's budget came from the international community. That money, now cut off, financed hospitals, schools, factories and government ministries. Desperation for basic necessities has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and health care shortages, drought and malnutrition.

Lyons welcomed a U.S. Treasury decision to issue a general license aimed at facilitating commercial and financial activity and allowing work with all governing institutions, with restrictions on individuals facing sanctions. But she said challenges remain, including weak demand without foreign development aid, restrictions on international payments and constraints on the central bank.

Lyons said the U.N. political mission she heads "has taken all conceivable measures to inject liquidity into the economy," including physically importing cash. And it is seeking to establish a temporary "humanitarian exchange facility" to scale up aid efforts that would provide access to U.S. dollars to legitimate businesses so they can import goods.

AP

An Afghan woman holds her sick granddaughter, where she undergoes treatment in the malnutrition ward of the Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital, in Kabul, Afghanistan, Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022.

U.S. deputy ambassador Jeffrey DeLaurentis said "the onus" is on the Taliban to restore economic stability. The U.S. wants Afghanistan's central bank to take on normal activities, he said, but "it's not up to us."

He noted President Joe Biden's executive order of Feb. 11 to free $7 billion in Afghan assets now frozen in the U.S., splitting the money between humanitarian aid for Afghanistan and a fund for victims of the Sept. 11 terror attack that killed nearly 3,000 people in the United States.

No money will be immediately released, and DeLaurentis said no decision has been made on how the funds for Afghanistan relief will eventually be used, saying that will require wide consultations.

Aside from that money, the United States remains the largest donor to the U.N.'s humanitarian operations in Afghanistan, contributing $308 million so far this year. DeLaurentis urged donors to contribute generously at an upcoming conference to address Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis.

Russia's deputy U.N. ambassador, Anna Evstigneeva, criticized the 20-year U.S. mission in Afghanistan as having left the country worse off. She welcomed the humanitarian pledging conference but said it wasn't enough "to ensure lasting post-conflict recovery in Afghanistan."

"With a paralyzed banking system and wide unemployment, the people of Afghanistan remain on the edge of subsistence, even ready to sell their own children, to say nothing of human organs," Evstigneeva said.

Higher oil prices push Sri Lanka into deeper economic crisis

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's already dire economic crisis has deepened as oil prices hover near $110 a barrel. Vehicles are stranded with empty tanks, power cuts are depriving students of study time for exams and shopping mall air conditioners are being switched off to conserve energy.

The South Asian island nation already was so short of hard currency that authorities had restricted imports of cars and fertilizer. It's now having to scrape into dwindling reserves to pay for ever more costly oil needed to keep the economy running.

Authorities have announced countrywide power cuts extending up to 7 1/2 hours a day because they can't supply enough fuel to power stations. Hydro power, the other energy mainstay, often runs short during the dry season. It will only end with monsoonal rains that usually begin in May.

"We can't find diesel, naphtha and furnace oil, all three kinds and therefore we have been compelled to go for such an extended power cut," Sri Lanka's Public Utilities Commission Chairman Janaka Ratnayake told reporters.

Bus services vital for many workers are also in trouble, unable to find diesel and sometimes stranding passengers mid-route.

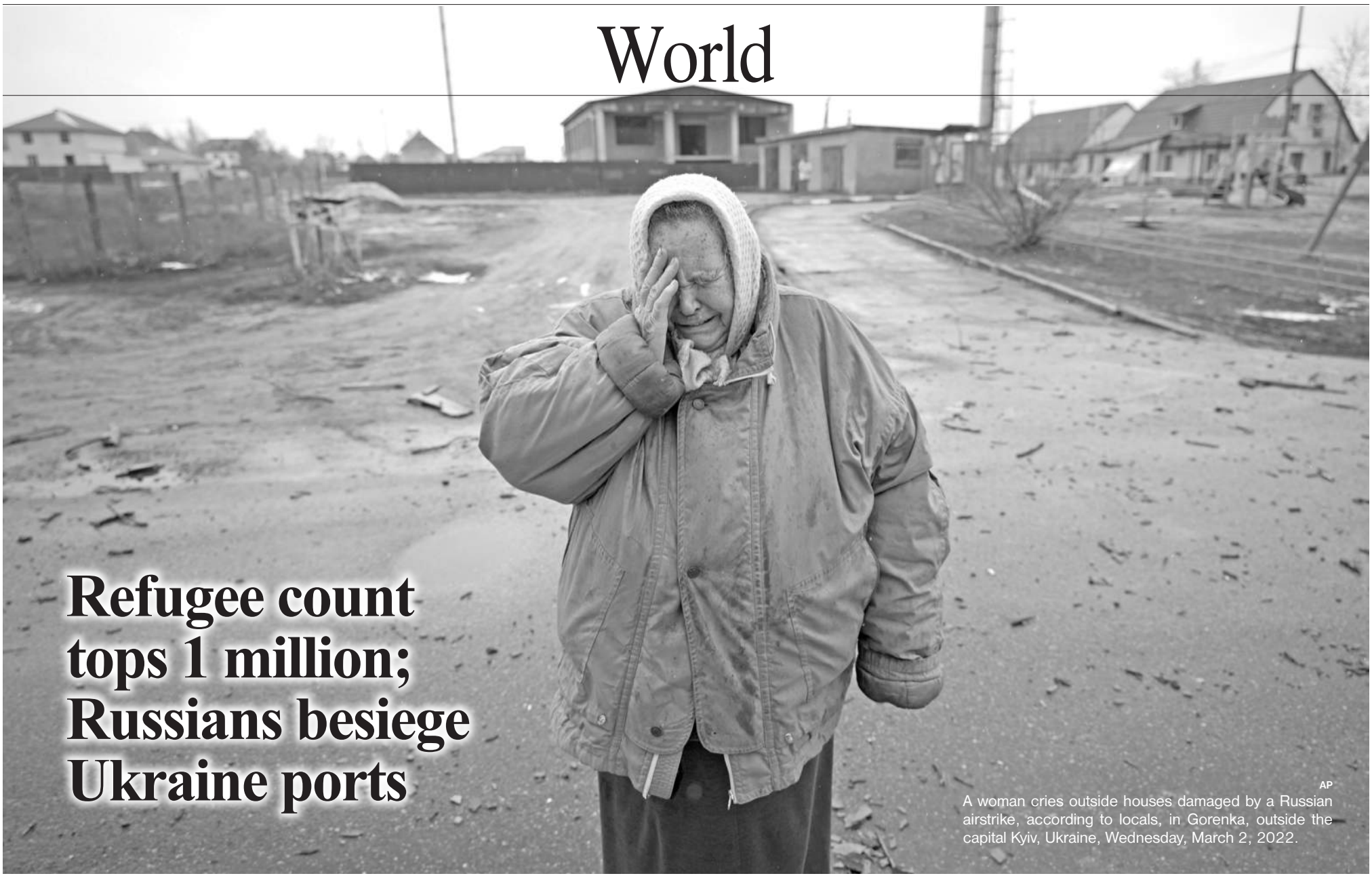
Ravindra Mendis, owner of seven passenger buses, said four are idled for now due to the fuel crisis.

"This diesel shortage is a severe hardship," Mendis said as he waited patiently to buy fuel at a station in Gampaha town, 24 kilometers (15 miles) north of the capital, Colombo.

"We are losing revenue and time, since we have to spend hours waiting in long lines to buy diesel," he said.

The higher oil prices are just an extra burden in what really is a foreign exchange crunch, said Energy Minister Udaya Gammanpila. He said stations also are rationing fuel to stop people from stockpiling diesel at home for their vehicles and power generators.

World



AP
A woman cries outside houses damaged by a Russian airstrike, according to locals, in Gorenka, outside the capital Kyiv, Ukraine, Wednesday, March 2, 2022.

Refugee count tops 1 million; Russians besiege Ukraine ports

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—The number of people sent fleeing Ukraine by Russia's invasion topped 1 million on Wednesday, the swiftest refugee exodus this century, the United Nations said, as Russian forces kept up their bombardment of the country's second-biggest city, Kharkiv, and laid siege to two strategic seaports.

The tally from the U.N. refugee agency released to The Associated Press amounts to more than 2 percent of Ukraine's population being forced out of the country in less than a week. The mass evacuation could be seen in Kharkiv, where residents desperate to get away from falling shells and bombs crowded the city's train station and tried to press onto trains, not always knowing where they were headed.

In a videotaped address, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called on Ukrainians to keep up the resistance. He vowed that the invaders would have "not one quiet moment" and described Russian soldiers as "confused children who have been used."

Moscow's isolation deepened, meanwhile, when most of the world lined up against it at the United Nations to demand it withdraw from Ukraine. And the prosecutor for the International Criminal Court opened an investigation into possible war crimes.

With fighting going on on multiple fronts across the country, Britain's Defense Ministry said Mariupol, a large city on the Azov Sea, was encircled by Russian forces, while the status of another vital port, Kherson, a Black Sea shipbuilding city of 280,000, remained unclear.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's forces claimed to have taken complete control of Kherson, which would make it the biggest city to fall yet in the invasion. But a senior U.S. defense official disputed that.

"Our view is that Kherson is very much a contested city," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Zelenskyy's office told The Associated Press that it could not comment on the situation in Kherson while the fighting was still going on.

But the mayor of Kherson, Igor Kolykhaev, said Russian soldiers were in the city and came to the city administration building. He said he asked them not to shoot civilians and to allow crews to gather up the bodies from the streets.

"I simply asked them not to shoot at people," he said in a statement. "We don't have any Ukrainian forces in the city, only civilians and people here who want to LIVE."

Mariupol Mayor Vadym Boychenko said the attacks there had been relentless.

"We cannot even take the wounded from the streets, from houses and apartments today, since the shelling does not stop," he was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying.

Russia reported its military casualties for the first time since the invasion began last week, saying nearly 500 of its troops have been killed and almost 1,600 wounded. Ukraine did not disclose its own military losses but said more than 2,000 civilians have died, a claim that could not be independently verified.

In a video address to the nation early Thursday, Zelenskyy praised his country's resistance.

"We are a people who in a week have destroyed the plans of the enemy," he said. "They will have no peace here. They will have no food. They will have here not one quiet moment."

UN Assembly votes to demand that Russia stop war in Ukraine

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. General Assembly voted at an emergency session Wednesday to demand an immediate halt to Moscow's attack on Ukraine and the withdrawal of all Russian troops, with sustained applause breaking out after a formidable show of support among the 193 member nations against the invasion.

The vote on the "Aggression against Ukraine" resolution was 141-5, with 35 abstentions. It came as Russia bombarded Ukraine's second-largest city and besieged two important ports, and a huge convoy of Russian military vehicles was poised outside the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv.

Only Belarus, Syria, North Korea and Eritrea joined Russia in opposing the measure, a powerful indication of the international isolation that Russian President Vladimir Putin faces for invading his country's smaller neighbor—and that the resolution's supporters sought to emphasize.

The abstentions included China and India, as expected, but also some surprises from usual Russian allies Cuba and Nicaragua. And the United Arab Emirates, which abstained on Friday's similar Security Council resolution, voted "yes."

Cuba had spoken in Russia's defense on Tuesday, with Ambassador Pedro Luis Cuesta blaming the crisis on what he said is the U.S. determination to keep expanding NATO toward Russia's borders and on the delivery of modern weapons to Ukraine, ignoring Russia's concerns for its own security. He told the assembly the resolution "suffers from lack of balance" and doesn't begin to address the concerns of both parties, or "the responsibility of those who took aggressive actions which precipitated the escalation of this conflict."

Unlike Security Council resolutions, General Assembly resolutions are not legally binding, but they do have clout in reflecting international opinion. Under special emergency session rules, a resolution needs approval of two-thirds of those countries voting, and abstentions don't count.

Russians start feeling the heat of Ukraine war sanctions

MOSCOW (AP)—In the days since the West imposed sanctions on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine, ordinary Russians are feeling the painful effects—from payment systems that won't operate and problems withdrawing cash to not being able to purchase certain items.

"Apple Pay hasn't been working since yesterday. It was impossible to pay with it anywhere—in a bus, in a cafe," Moscow resident Tatyana Usmanova told The Associated Press. "Plus, in one supermarket they limited the amount of essential goods one person could buy."

Apple announced that it would stop selling its iPhone and other popular products in Russia along with limiting services like Apple Pay as part of a larger corporate backlash to protest the invasion.

Dozens of foreign and international companies have pulled their business out of Russia. Major car brands halted exports of their vehicles; Boeing and Airbus suspended supply of aircraft parts and service to Russian airlines; major Hollywood studios halted their film releases; and the list will likely keep growing.

That's on top of the United States and other Western nations hitting Russia with sanctions of unprecedented breadth and severity. They have thrown major Russian banks off the SWIFT international payment system, limited high tech exports to Russia and severely restricted Moscow's use of its foreign currency reserves.

Russians in Moscow and other cities talked to The AP about how those moves have played out in their daily lives, pointing to problems with converting rubles into foreign currency, long lines at ATMs and certain bank cards failing them.

Irina Biryukova in Yaroslavl, in a city about 250 kilometers northeast of Moscow, said she could only deposit a limited amount of money into her bank account through the bank ATMs.

"The majority of ATMs (of this bank) don't work to deposit (money)," Biryukova said.

Food prices, according to some businesses, have started soaring, too.

Off The Wall

Man saved after clinging to an ice chunk in Alaska inlet

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—An Alaska man walking on a shoreline wound up clinging to a chunk of ice for more than 30 minutes in frigid water when the shoreline ice broke loose and carried him out into Cook Inlet.

Jaime Snedden, 45, of Homer, was rescued Saturday near the community of Anchor Point on the Kenai Peninsula. He was taken to a hospital, where he was treated for hypothermia. He was expected to fully recover, Alaska Wildlife Troopers said.

Snedden "was reported to have been walking along the shoreline on the ice when it broke free and drifted into Cook Inlet with the outgoing current," Troopers spokesman Tim DeSpain said in an email to The Associated Press on Monday.

Snedden was swept about 300 yards (274 meters) out into the inlet, near the mouth of the Anchor River.

Alaska Wildlife Trooper Jeremy Baum arrived and saw only Snedden's head and arms visible above water as he clung to the ice chunk.

Snedden was not wearing any type of personal flotation device.

The fishing vessel Misty was about 3 miles (4.83 kilometers) away and responded to an urgent marine broadcast seeking help. The Misty arrived about the same time as Baum, who launched an inflatable pack raft and rowed to Snedden's location.

Snedden was pulled aboard the Misty, with assistance from the ship's captain, Shane Balkely, and his clients.

"Without their help it would have been much more challenging to rescue Snedden and get him to EMS as quickly as we did," Baum said.

County to have courthouse therapy dog

AP

Holiday, a 14-month-old yellow Labrador retriever, that is being trained to become the first official courthouse facility dog, in Maine, wears a vest while sitting for a photo, Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022, in Houlton, Maine.

HOULTON, Maine (AP)—An Aroostook County courthouse is poised to be the first in Maine to have a dedicated therapy dog to provide emotional support for people dealing with traumatic experiences.

A yellow Labrador puppy named Holiday has begun up to two years of training with a goal of becoming a calming presence in a stressful environment.

Aroostook County District Attorney Todd Collins told the Bangor Daily News that courthouse dogs can help traumatized children and victims of crime. They can also provide emotional support for law enforcement officers, first responders and others, too.

"A courthouse dog can provide emotional support for everyone," he said.

The Houlton courthouse already has an unofficial therapy dog—an English Mastiff named Nephi—who can sometimes be found in the office of his owner, Valerie Eldredge, the victim/witness advocate in Houlton.

Holiday will have a much more focused job once she completes her training, said Tyler Jones, owner of Purpose Pups in Houlton who is training Holiday to become an officially licensed courthouse dog.

Karley Allen, owner of Northern Woods Labs, which donated the puppy, said she believes in the power of dogs to heal.

"They are truly heart healers that give endless love and can give so much back to our communities when placed in these roles," she said.

Nearly $3M worth of meth in onion shipment

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Authorities seized nearly $3 million worth of methamphetamine, hidden among a shipment of onions, during a tractor-trailer's inspection at federal facility in San Diego, officials announced Friday.

A K-9 unit for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection alerted to the trailer's shipment of onions on Sunday and officers found nearly 1,200 small packages of meth, the agency said Friday in a news release.

The 46-year-old driver, a Mexican national who was not named, was arrested for the alleged narcotic smuggling attempt at the Otay Mesa port-of-entry commercial vehicle facility, officials said.

The packages of meth—more than 1,336 pounds (606 kilograms)—were shaped into small globes with a white covering, the agency said, and meant to blend into the onions. The drugs are estimated to be worth $2.9 million on the street.

"This was not only a clever attempt to try and smuggle in narcotics, one I haven't seen before, but also time consuming to wrap narcotics into these small packages, designed to look like onions," said Sidney Aki, CBP Director of Field Operations in San Diego, in the news release. "While we have certainly seen narcotics in produce before, it's unusual for us to see this level of detail in the concealment."

Science & Technology

Space junk on a 5,800-mph collision course with moon

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—The moon is about to get walloped by 3 tons of space junk, a punch that will carve out a crater that could fit several semitractor-trailers.

The leftover rocket will smash into the far side of the moon at 5,800 mph (9,300 kph) on Friday, away from telescopes' prying eyes. It may take weeks, even months, to confirm the impact through satellite images.

It's been tumbling haphazardly through space, experts believe, since China launched it nearly a decade ago. But Chinese officials are dubious it's theirs.

No matter whose it is, scientists expect the object to carve out a hole 33 feet to 66 feet (10 to 20 meters) across and send moon dust flying hundreds of miles (kilometers) across the barren, pockmarked surface.

Low-orbiting space junk is relatively easy to track. Objects launching deeper into space are unlikely to hit anything and these far-flung pieces are usually soon forgotten, except by a handful of observers who enjoy playing celestial detective on the side.

SpaceX originally took the rap for the upcoming lunar litter after asteroid tracker Bill Gray identified the collision course in January. He corrected himself a month later, saying the "mystery" object was not a SpaceX Falcon rocket upper stage from the 2015 launch of a deep space climate observatory for NASA.

Gray said it was likely the third stage of a Chinese rocket that sent a test sample capsule to the moon and back in 2014. But Chinese ministry officials said the upper stage had reentered Earth's atmosphere and burned up.

But there were two Chinese missions with similar designations—the test flight and 2020′s lunar sample return mission—and U.S. observers believe the two are getting mixed up.

The U.S. Space Command, which tracks lower space junk, confirmed Tuesday that the Chinese upper stage from the 2014 lunar mission never deorbited, as previously indicated in its database. But it could not confirm the country of origin for the object about to strike the moon.

"We focus on objects closer to the Earth," a spokesperson said in a statement.

Gray, a mathematician and physicist, said he's confident now that it's China's rocket.

"I've become a little bit more cautious of such matters," he said. "But I really just don't see any way it could be anything else."

TECH Q&A: Finding out if your e-mail was received

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE

Q: If I send an e-mail, is there a way to know if the recipient got it? I'm interested because some people to whom I've sent an e-mail say they never got it (not even in their spam folders.)

A: There are ways to track whether an e-mail has been received, but none of them are very reliable and one is widely considered to be an invasion of privacy.

The "nice" ways to see if your e-mail has been received are to ask for a "read receipt" or a "delivery receipt" when you send the message. Mail programs that can do that include Microsoft's Outlook.com online mail service, the PC based Microsoft Outlook mail program and, to a lesser extent, the Gmail systems that are used by schools and businesses.

A read receipt is just a message that asks the recipient to respond if he or she reads the e-mail. But responding is voluntary. If the recipient fails to reply, you won't know if your e-mail was received. To make matters more complicated, some recipient e-mail systems may not allow the use of read receipts. As a result, read receipts might or might not work.

A delivery receipt is a little more sophisticated. It tells your e-mail server to ask the recipient's e-mail server to confirm that the e-mail was received. But not all recipient e-mail servers will respond to these requests. So, delivery receipts also might or might not work. (To learn more about e-mail read receipts and delivery receipts, see tinyurl.com/yc77ns3p).

The "less nice" way to see if an e-mail has been received is to put a "tracking pixel" in the e-mail. Tracking pixels are small, barely noticeable images that are downloaded to your e-mail message each time a recipient opens it. Tracking pixel software tells you who opened the e-mail. (For more details, see tinyurl.com/am2nzs84 and tinyurl.com/2p9849xr and tinyurl.com/dnwvawar).

However, there are two problems with using tracking pixel software:

Because the technology is widely used by spammers and e-mail marketers, many people consider its use to be an invasion of their privacy.

Some e-mail systems can block tracking pixels (see tinyurl.com/yck4yemv). They do that by not allowing an incoming e-mail to display any images. As a result, a tracking pixel can't reveal if an e-mail was opened. (However, if the e-mail recipient asks to see the images, the tracking pixel can do its work.)

Q: What's the best way to convert my family videos on VHS tape to digital computer files? I'd like to do the work myself, but I'd consider paying a company to do it.

A: It's practical for you to do the conversion work yourself. Whether it's cheaper than paying someone to do it will depend on how many VHS tapes you need to convert.

You'll need a VHS-to-digital conversion device (new for $25-$175, see tinyurl.com/4fh7f6xr) and a VCR (used for $130 and up on eBay or Amazon.) Cables may cost extra. For simple directions, see this article from Forbes (tinyurl.com/3tx2u95y). This Tom's Guide article (tinyurl.com/2hwtm4z6) is a bit more technical, but also lists services that will do the conversion for you for about $20 per tape.

Email tech questions to Steve Alexander at steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Star Tribune of Minneapolis*. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Life & Style

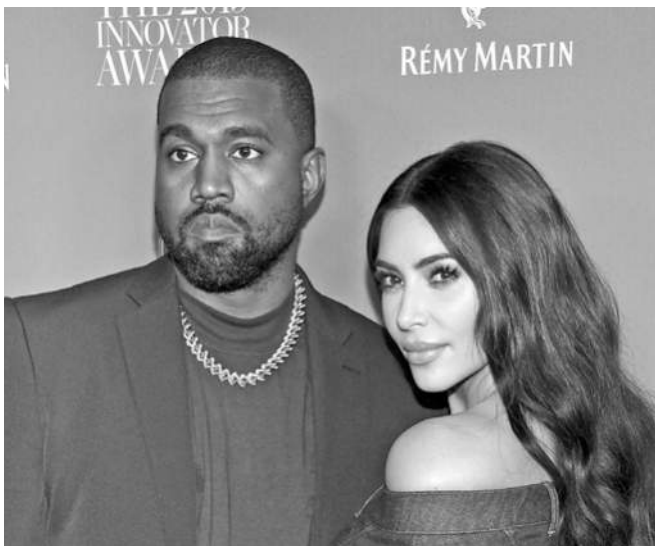
Kim Kardashian declared legally single, other issues remain

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kim Kardashian became a single woman on Wednesday, nearly eight years after her marriage to Ye.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Steve Cochran granted Kardashian's motion seeking the legal status. He smoothed over some procedural objections to the move from Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, and dismissed others.

Kardashian, who appeared at the hearing via videoconference, was put under oath to make a series of declarations required for the legal move.

"Mother, I'm going to ask you a series of questions now," said Cochran, a colorful judge who calls all divorcing parents in his courtroom "mother" or "father."



(PHOTO BY EVAN AGOSTINI/INVISION/AP, FILE)

Kanye West, left, and Kim Kardashian attend the WSJ. Magazine Innovator Awards on Nov. 6, 2019, in New York. Kardashian became a single woman on Wednesday, nearly eight years after her marriage to Ye, who legally changed his name from Kanye West.

They included, "Did problems, disputes and differences cause a breakdown of your marriage?" and, "Is it your desire to become a single person?"

After Kardashian answered "yes" to all, Cochran said, "It is granted."

The court can allow a person amid a complicated divorce to become legally single while issues of child custody and property are worked out.

Cochran celebrated that the case was moving forward after stalling for several months.

"We've made a lot of progress in here," the judge told Kardashian. "We are rolling on this like a European train, fast and on time."

He also finalized dropping West from Kardashian's name.

When the hearing began and Kardashian came on the line, Cochran declared, "We're about the kids here. We have 2, 4, 6 and 8," referring to the ages of the couple's four children. "Is everybody doing OK?"

"Everybody's doing OK," Kardashian said.

"Are you showering them with affection?" Cochran asked.

Biden's State of the Union speech draws 38 million viewers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An estimated 38.2 million TV viewers watched President Joe Biden's State of the Union address, according to Nielsen ratings.

That surpassed the audience of 37.2 million for Donald Trump's last such address in 2020, but fell short of the 45.6 million who tuned in for Trump's first State of the Union speech in 2018.

Nielsen said it was "important to note" that this year's tally reflects the additional measurement of out-of-home viewing and viewership on streaming-enabled TV sets that rely on devices such as Roku or Xbox.

When the latter measurement is taken into account, viewership can increase as much as 13% for televised political events, Nielsen said.

Biden's first address to Congress after taking office, in 2021, drew about 27 million people, while Trump's comparable 2017 inaugural joint session of Congress address was seen by 47.7 million.

Nielsen measured viewership on 16 networks and channels that aired live coverage of Tuesday's roughly hour-long speech, in which Biden focused on Russia's invasion of Ukraine, inflation and the coronavirus pandemic.

Fox News Channel averaged the biggest audience for the address, an estimated 7.2 million. ABC averaged 6.3 million viewers, followed by CBS with 4.9 million; CNN's 4.8 million; NBC's 4.7 million; MSNBC's 4.1 million; Fox, 1.9 million.

Marilyn Manson sues Evan Rachel Wood over abuse allegations

Rocker Marilyn Manson sued his former fiancee, "Westworld" actor Evan Rachel Wood, on Wednesday over her allegations that he sexually and physically abused her during their relationship.

The lawsuit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court alleges that Wood's allegations were fabricated, and that she and another woman named as a defendant, Illma Gore, used false pretenses including a phony letter from the FBI to convince other women to come forward with sexual abuse allegations and coached them on what to say about Manson, whose legal name is Brian Warner.

Manson

The lawsuit, which claims defamation and intentional infliction of emotional distress, says Wood publicly cast Manson "as a rapist and abuser—a malicious falsehood that has derailed Warner's successful music, TV, and film career."

Wood and Gore have not yet filed a response to the lawsuit. An email to representatives of Wood seeking comment was not immediately returned. ***(AP)***

Helmet worn by Amelia Earhart is sold for $825,000 at auction

A leather helmet that Amelia Earhart wore on a flight across the Atlantic in 1928 and later lost in a crowd of fans in Cleveland has sold at auction for $825,000.

The helmet went to an anonymous bidder in an online-only sale that closed Sunday, a spokesperson for Heritage Auctions said.

The seller was Anthony Twiggs, a 67-year-old Minnesotan who had tried for years to prove that the leather aviator's helmet he inherited from his mother was really Earhart's.

Earhart was just a passenger in June 1928 when she became the first woman on board a plane crossing the Atlantic. Photos shot before and after the flight show her wearing a jaunty leather helmet or flight cap.

Earhart wore the same helmet the following year in the Women's National Air Derby, an all-female race from Santa Monica, California, to Cleveland. Thousands of spectators greeted the famous aviator when she landed her single-engine Lockheed Vega at the Cleveland airfield, and she lost the helmet in the crush. ***(AP)***

AP

American aviatrix Amelia Earhart poses for photos as she arrives in Southampton, England, after her transatlantic flight on the "Friendship" from Burry Point, Wales, June 26, 1928.

Mother doesn't want grandma involved in son's recovery

DEAR ABBY: My son just withdrew from college with a medical leave due to anxiety and depression. My husband and I support him fully and are helping him receive the help he needs. Of course, we are very concerned.

The problem is my mother. When I was young and had similar problems, she told me: "It's a sin for someone who has as much going for her as you do to be depressed." (This was especially strange since she's not religious.) She has been similarly dismissive of my feelings during other bouts of depression. She is generous with money, gifts, cooking, etc., but she cannot understand that being close with someone has more to do with emotional trust than simply time spent together.

I don't know how to handle this current situation with my son. She wants to be involved, but I have a strong aversion to her being around because I don't know what she'll say. I need to protect my son and myself, but I know she'll feel hurt if I leave her out. What should I do?

MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE

DEAR ADVOCATE: Your mother's feelings should not be a priority right now. I'm recommending you "Grandma-proof" your son to the extent you can, by explaining to him that "Nana" has some old-fashioned, outdated ideas about depression, an illness that can run in families and appears to run in yours.

There are far more effective interventions for him now than were available for you back then. Medications and sometimes talk therapy can put him in a more positive frame of mind, and I'm glad you can help him get the professional help he needs.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: For most of my life, I've felt uncomfortable in my own body. It seemed as though my right arm belonged to someone else. I have decided to have it amputated, and I'm trying to find the best way to tell my family. I'd appreciate any suggestions you might have.

LOST FOR WORDS

DEAR LOST: There's a name for those feelings you have had for so long. It's called "body integrity identity disorder." Before trying to explain your desire for amputation to your family, please discuss this with a licensed psychotherapist who may be able to help you determine if you truly want to follow through with your intention. With psychiatric help, you may be able to integrate your "alien limb" into your body image.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I lost a friend about two months ago. During the early morning hour of his death, I was having breakfast alone, and I had the light on in my dining room. All of a sudden, the light went out and then came back on. Abby, the only power that went out was the light over my head. I am a science person. I do not believe in mystical things. Now I am not so sure my friend wasn't communicating with me. I cried. What do you think?

MISSING HIM IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR MISSING HIM: I think if it comforts you to believe your friend was reaching out to you as he passed to the next realm, you should hold onto and treasure that thought. If it doesn't do that, let it go and dwell on the wonderful friendship you two shared.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Harden stars in Philadelphia home debut, leads 76ers to win

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—James Harden saw the fake beards dangling from chins, oversized cutouts of his head waving above outstretched arms and heard 76ers fans shouting from the stands that they loved him.

Harden knew from his first step on the court that his nearly 14-month, three-team journey — that he in large part orchestrated — brought him exactly where he wanted to play.

"I just wanted to come out there and show my love back," Harden said.

Much like the bushy beard that defines his image, Harden has grown on the 76ers.

Harden had a packed house in a frenzy from the moment he was introduced as "making his Philadelphia home debut," then flashed his MVP form with 26 points, nine assists and nine rebounds to lead the 76ers to a 123-108 win over the New York Knicks on Wednesday night.

Joel Embiid had 27 points and 12 rebounds. Tyrese Maxey scored 25 points.

"We all just fit together," Embiid said.

But the night belonged to the Beard.

The Sixers moved to 3-0 with Harden in the lineup and his dynamic duo hookup with Embiid has suddenly stamped the Sixers as legitimate contenders in the Eastern Conference.

"I feel like you can put me anywhere in the room and I can fit in," Harden said. "Here is no different. Just see what you have and try your best to fit in. Be the best James Harden I can be in every aspect."

Harden needed time to warm up to the new digs. His first points came with 5:32 left in the first quarter on, naturally, an and-1 conversion. He followed that with, yup, his step-back 3 to give him five fast points.

There was much more to showcase.

He scored 13 points in the second quarter and had fans shooting video on their phones.

Philly's hype for the new arrival rivaled the anticipated first games over the last 25 years of Terrell Owens (Eagles) and Bryce Harper (Phillies). The Wells Fargo Center was jammed with 21,333 fans and tickets for a top seat—not far off from rapper Meek Mill's courtside view—were sold for thousands on the secondary market.

Even director M. Night Shyamalan attended for the city's biggest happening on the sports scene.

"It felt like a playoff atmosphere," Embiid said. "I've given a lot of credit to Philly fans over the years and they've always come through, win or lose."

The masks came off—and the beards went on. With Philadelphia dropping the indoor mask mandate, Sixers fans had faces clear to buy the $5 fake beards in team merchandise stores. The Sixers seemingly could have paid Harden's salary on the amount of his gear sold alone before tipoff. Fans packed the stores and stands and picked up the new No. 1 jerseys, socks and T-shirts emblazoned with Harden's image.

Sixers fans wore his jersey as they hanged over the tunnel to the locker room and waited for Harden to run out onto the court. With about an hour left in warmups, Harden emerged to a big ovation. He shot 3s and joked with coaches and teammates, oblivious to the expectations ahead.

Sixers coach Doc Rivers has built winners with Hall of Famers and All-Stars on his roster and understands the need to shut out the frenzy that followed Harden's debut.

"I do the same job, the same work. It's just that more people notice," Rivers said. "I think when you get a guy like James and Joel together with what we have, with all of our other guys, our guys sense it, too. Not the hoopla, though. It's that they have a real shot. You don't get many of these."

AP

Philadelphia 76ers' James Harden reacts after a basket during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the New York Knicks, Wednesday, March 2, 2022, in Philadelphia.

The Knicks, losers of 13 of 15 games, led at halftime and kept the lead early in the third. Embiid twice hit 3s that brought the Sixers within one. Then Philly got going. Maxey scored 11 points in the quarter and the Sixers outscored the Knicks 38-19 to finally grab the lead for good. Embiid, Maxey and even Georges Niang each hit two 3s in the quarter.

Suns 120, Trail Blazers 90

In Phoenix, Cam Johnson scored 20 points, Deandre Ayton added 18 and Phoenix became the first NBA team to 50 wins this season by easily beating Portland.

Phoenix won without its All-Star backcourt of Chris Paul and Devin Booker. Paul's been out since Feb. 16 because of a broken thumb and could miss the rest of the regular season. Booker was placed in the league's COVID-19 health and safety protocols Wednesday.

Johnson was 6 of 8 from the field, and Ayton 9 of 12 to help Phoenix end a two-game losing streak and break a tie with Golden State for the NBA's best home record at 27-6. Mikal Bridges and Jae Crowder each added 15 points, with Bridges shooting 6 of 9.

Brandon Williams had a career-high 14 points for Portland.

Bucks 120, Heat 119

In Milwaukee, Jrue Holiday banked in a driving layup with 1.9 seconds left and Milwaukee overcame a 14-point deficit in the final six minutes to beat Miami.

The Bucks outscored Miami 21-6 down the stretch to snap the Heat's four-game winning streak.

Giannis Antetokounmpo Antetokounmpo had 28 points, 17 rebounds and five assists for the Bucks. Khris Middleton scored 26, and Holiday had 25.

Gabe Vincent had 21 points for the Heat.

Thunder 119, Nuggets 107

In Denver, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 29 points, Isaiah Roby added a career-high 26 and injury-depleted Oklahoma City beat Denver.

The Thunder entered the game last in the league from 3-point range at 31.2%. But they hit 16 of 29 and Gilgeous-Alexander's step-back deep shot with 1:27 left sent the fans to the exits.

Nikola Jokic led Denver with 22 points and 16 rebounds.

Pelicans 125, Kings 95

In New Orleans, Brandon Ingram scored 33 points on 15-of-19 shooting and New Orleans beat Sacramento for its third straight victory.

Ingram scored 28 of his points before being briefly forced out of the game by an elbow to the face from Damian Jones. But he returned in the fourth quarter to make a tough turnaround, a transition 3-pointer and a couple of heady assists that helped New Orleans snuff out any hope the Kings had of coming back.

Jonas Valanciunas had 17 points and 14 rebounds, and CJ McCollum had 17 points and a season-high nine assists for the Pelicans.

De'Aaron Fox scored 25 points for the Kings.

Jazz 122, Rockets 127, OT

In Houston, Donovan Mitchell had 37 points and Mike Conley scored nine points in overtime to help Utah outlast Houston.

Rudy Gobert added 27 points and 17 rebounds to help the Jazz win their third straight and ninth in 10 games.

Jalen Green scored 27 points for Houston. They have lost 11 in a row.

Hornets 119, C avaliers 98

In Cleveland, Terry Rozier scored 29 points and carried Charlotte's backcourt with LaMelo Ball in foul trouble, leading the Hornets past Cleveland.

Cleveland got back All-Star Darius Garland from a bone bruise in his back, but lost for the fifth time in six games. Garland had 33 points in 33 minutes.

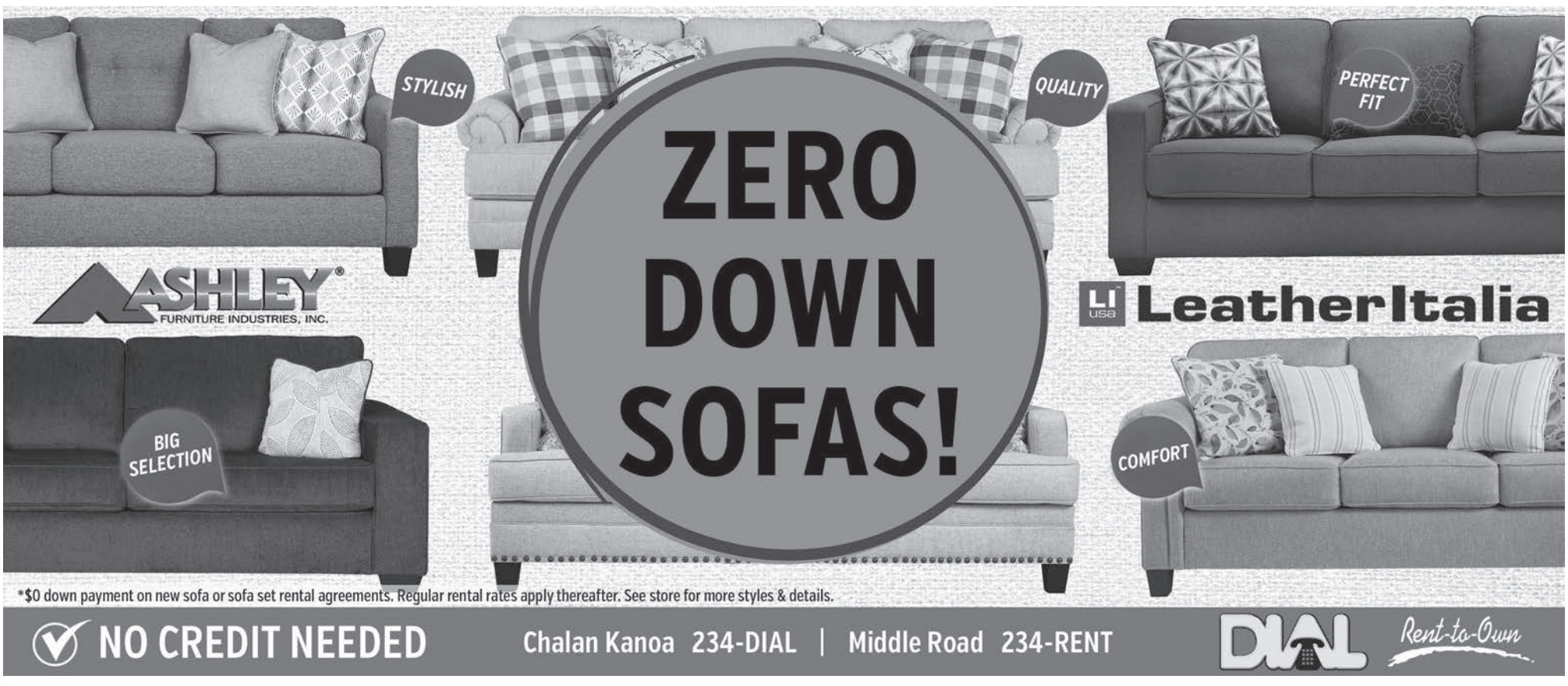
Cleveland coach J.B. Bickerstaff was slapped with two technical fouls and ejected by referee Natalie Sago in the third quarter.

Pacers 122, Magic 114, OT

In Orlando, Fla., Malcolm Brogdon had 31 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists and Indiana overcame a 15-point deficit in the fourth quarter and beat Orlando in overtime.

Tyrese Haliburton had 21 pints and six assists. He scored five of Indiana's 12 points in overtime.

Franz Wagner led Orlando with 28 points.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*$0 down payment on new sofa or sofa set rental agreements. Regular rental rates apply thereafter. See store for more styles & details.
NO CREDIT NEEDED
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DIAL Rent-to-Own

Analysis: Anger as much as money at center of broken talks

JUPITER, Fla. (AP)—Anger is at the center of Major League Baseball's broken labor negotiations as much as money.

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred's cancellation of each team's first two series is a byproduct of failed relationships in a fractured sport that can't get out of its own way.

Negotiators headed home Wednesday after the breakdown at Manfred's deadline for a deal to preserve opening day. It wasn't clear when the sides will meet next.

"Instead of bargaining in good faith — MLB locked us out," three-time MVP Mike Trout wrote Wednesday on Twitter. "Instead of negotiating for a fair deal — Rob canceled games."

Meetings have been unproductive on many days, partly the nature of labor negotiations but exacerbated in baseball by mistrust and mindsets dwelling on the past at the same time they look forward.

"A core of this negotiation's to increase competition and there's no way we're leaving the table without something that does that," said free-agent reliever Andrew Miller, one of the eight players supervising the union's bargaining. "We're not going to do anything to sacrifice this competition of the season. Anything that points towards mediocrity, that's the antithesis of our game and what we're about as players."

Players are seething over management actions in recent years. The union's grievances over Kris Bryant's demotion to the minor leagues in 2015, against Miami, Oakland, Pittsburgh and Tampa Bay for not properly spending revenue sharing money and against MLB alleging the 2020 season was shorter than it should have been hover over negotiations like an unending storm.

AP

Locked gates are shown at Truist Park, home of the Atlanta Braves baseball team, Wednesday, March 2, 2022, in Atlanta.

The players' association takes umbrage at management's slow pace of bargaining once the lockout began Dec. 2, yet both sides have been excruciatingly measured in unveiling advanced bargaining positions after concluding the other was hanging back.

And both sides have made proposals designed to anger the other in response to a previous plan that caused fury.

During the late-February talks in Florida, one side called its own latest luxury tax proposal "intentionally lousy," saying it was a mirror image of the other's plan. It was the negotiating equivalent of a purpose pitch.

The players' goal is to improve the bargaining agreement for those that follow.

"To the younger generation of baseball players, this is for you," free agent first baseman Anthony Rizzo tweeted.

Union head Tony Clark, in criticizing MLB for locking out the players rather than risk a late-season strike, referred back to the shortened 60-game schedule of 2020.

"You only get so many opening days," he said. "If you're an average major leaguer, you might see four of them. Having an opportunity to play as long as humanly possible and find yourself in a world where now for the second time in two years the schedule is shorter than it otherwise should have been or could have been is a problem."

While there are many open issues, the three primary economic items are the luxury tax, the new pre-arbitration bonus pool and the minimum salary. Of those, the luxury tax threshold is the biggest, because it has a huge impact on how high a payroll the biggest spenders are willing to carry. That money often goes to free agent, whose salaries filter down to frame the level for players in arbitration.

When teams rebuilt and didn't compete for titles in any given season, it angered players who accused them of tanking.

"It's not just money. The money can be important in order to have the market operate in a functional way," Miller said. "We've seen trends take advantage of maybe places in which a player did not receive as much as they're contributing. As well as we have been screaming for years about competition issues."

Seven of baseball's eight work stoppages from 1972 to 1995 were over free agency, salary arbitration and fighting off a salary cap — all but the first, which was over the pension plan. Those fights were framed by a century of management control of players and owners' inability to deal with the arbitrator's decision that led to free agency.

Owners gained a degree of cost control in the 2011 and 2016 negotiations, which combined with advanced analytics has led to less robust free agent markets and changes in player demographics that caused the union to push for change during bargaining for a new contract.

Club behavior in the past five years and that impact on players have led to the lockout and MLB cancelling regular-season games for the first time in a generation. Thus far they can't look ahead without looking back.

Sad, not shocked: MLB fans take gut-punch of canceled games

PHOENIX (AP)—Nathan Rueckert's personal finances are loosely tied to Major League Baseball, thanks to the 20 years or so he has spent building his company that produces hand-crafted artwork catered to fans.

That's not why Tuesday was a very bad day.

At heart, Rueckert simply loves baseball. And like most baseball fans, he reacted with a mix of resignation, dismay, sadness and anger when MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred announced that opening day on March 31 was canceled because the players' union and management couldn't strike a labor deal in time to end a 90-day lockout.

"I just think of all the father-son moments that are going to be missed," said Rueckert, who operates Baseball Seams Co. from his home in South Dakota. "All those opportunities that are robbed by a season that might not even exist. Especially with the state of the country and the world, baseball is such a great distraction.

"People want to go to the ballpark, have a hot dog and get rid of stress."

For fans, MLB's decision to cancel games only adds to their stress. And anger. Or, maybe most concerning — apathy.

It's the latest setback for a sport that's had arguably the worst luck of the biggest U.S. sports leagues — which include the NFL, NBA, NHL and MLB — when it comes to COVID-19. The pandemic started in mid-March of 2020, immediately shutting down spring training less than three weeks before opening day and causing the season to be shortened by more than 100 games.

No other league lost a bigger chunk of its schedule.

There wasn't much that could be done about a pandemic. Labor squabbles over how to allocate money in a $10 billion industry are a different story. Now, for the second time in three seasons, at least some regular-season games won't be played.

There are no heroes in this lockout tale, but much of the social media vitriol has been directed at Manfred, who has been commissioner since 2015. He was spotted practicing his golf swing between bargaining sessions by an Associated Press photographer on Tuesday. Others were upset that Manfred was laughing and jovial with reporters at his news conference announcing the cancellation.

It's safe to say baseball fans are not amused.

"The people need the games after getting through COVID-19 to lift our spirits and get back to normal," said Toronto Blue Jays fan Bill Farina, who lives in Palm Harbor, Florida, and was watching a Senators-Lightning NHL game. "I am disappointed in baseball. They don't care about the fans, and fans are going to leave them behind.

"Why would they stay and support these guys just to get burned?"

St. Louis Cardinals fan Hunter Kniffin is among many who wonder if the game can survive a lengthy work stoppage. He was a teenager during the 1994-95 strike that wiped out a World Series and about 70 regular-season games for each team.

He remembers the fan apathy that followed and the way the sport was eventually energized by the Mark McGwire-Sammy Sosa home run race that captivated the country in 1998. He's not sure baseball will be as fortunate this time. It's a different world than the mid-to-late 1990s and there are more options for entertainment than ever.

"It could be a lot harder to bounce back this time," said Kniffin, who goes to about 10 games each year. "I just don't see how baseball can afford to lose any more exposure to the other major sports."

Pittsburgh Pirates fan Anthony Margiotta has two sons who play youth baseball. He's a diehard who said the lockout won't affect his plans to attend games when and if they're played, especially if there's good weather on a summer night.

But he also knows many fans aren't like him. If baseball's out of sight, it's out of mind, and it's certainly not attracting any younger fans when games are canceled.

"I'm sure this isn't helping things, let's just say that," the 45-year-old Margiotta said.

The scariest part for MLB could be that many fans seemed resigned to baseball's popularity fade. Joe Hart was wearing a Detroit Tigers hat on Tuesday night but watching another sport, taking in a Pistons-Wizards NBA game in Washington.

He said the decision to cancel baseball's opening day is "not a surprise" and blames the owners slightly more than the players for the current fiasco.

But more than the desire to place blame, there's simply disgust. Being a baseball fan isn't easy these days.

"People struggling and having a hard time, and they're trying to figure out how to divide billions of dollars," Hart said. "It is what it is."

40 boats expected for Wahoo in the Marianas tomorrow

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tasi to Table Inc.'s 3rd Annual Wahoo in the Marianas will launch from the Smiling Cove Marina tomorrow with over 40 boats expected to take part in the competition, according to the group's vice president Dan Wollak.

The pursuit for the weightiest wahoo starts bright and early at 6am and concludes at 5pm. It will be followed immediately by an awards ceremony at 5:30pm where the first, second, and third place winners will be awarded cash prizes of $2,000, $1,500, and $1,000, respectively. A separate total weight award will also be given out and the winner will take home $500.

Tasi to Table secretary Derik Reyes, who started as a student member of the group two years ago, said they're looking forward for the success of tomorrow's 3rd Annual Wahoo in the Marianas.

MARK RABAGO

About 40 boats expected to take part in Tasi to Table Inc.'s 3rd Annual Wahoo in the Marianas set tomorrow in the waters off the CNMI.

"Well for this being the first derby of the year we are hoping to reach 40 boats. Despite the increase in gas prices we are still hopefully for the best outcome. The students worked hard and diligently to put this Wahoo in the Marianas Fishing Tournament in motion!"

Aside from Wollak and Reyes, the other officers of Tasi to Table are president Gene Weaver and treasurer-Alex Castro. The 3rd Annual Wahoo in the Marianas is sponsored by Mobil Oil Marianas and IT&E.

Last year, the six-man crew of *Lucky Harvest* topped the 2nd Annual Wahoo in the Marianas after snagging a 36.1-lb wahoo. Captain Cecilio Raikuilipiy and his crew members took home the $2,000 first place bounty.

Coming in at second place was the crew of *Borrow Fan,* who brought in a 33.7-lb wahoo earning them the $1,500 prize. Third place and the $1,000 prize went to the fishermen aboard *Sesa* which reeled in a 32.6-lb wahoo. And in fourth, earning the $500 prize was the *J&MJ* crew who managed to reel in a 27.7-lb wahoo.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	38	23	.623	—
Boston	37	27	.578	2½
Toronto	34	27	.557	4
Brooklyn	32	31	.508	7
New York	25	37	.403	13½

Southeast Division

Miami	41	22	.651	—
Charlotte	31	33	.484	10½
Atlanta	29	32	.475	11
Washington	28	33	.459	12
Orlando	15	48	.238	26

Central Division

Chicago	39	23	.629	—
Milwaukee	38	25	.603	1½
Cleveland	36	26	.581	3
Indiana	22	42	.344	18
Detroit	15	47	.242	24

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	43	20	.683	—
Dallas	37	25	.597	5½
New Orleans	26	36	.419	16½
San Antonio	24	38	.387	18½
Houston	15	47	.242	27½

Northwest Division

Utah	39	22	.639	—
Denver	36	26	.581	3½
Minnesota	34	29	.540	6
Portland	25	37	.403	14½
Oklahoma City	20	42	.323	19½

Pacific Division

Phoenix	50	12	.806	—
Golden State	43	19	.694	7
L.A. Clippers	33	31	.516	18
L.A. Lakers	27	34	.443	22½
Sacramento	23	41	.359	28

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PACIFIC

From Page 24

Mara, in a social media message to *Saipan Tribune,* said the Pacific Oceania team can't wait to hit the court against players from Estonia in its first tie since being promoted to Group II last September.

"The team morale is very high as we all know each other well and feed on each other's energy. The Pacific spirit is strong in us and representing our colors is powerful to us. The players have been training every day, twice a day in order to figure the best possible formation to be as efficient as possible," he said.

Mara said Sinclair being their only player ranked in the ATP will assume the No. 1 spot with Mainguy getting the nod for the No. 2 spot.

"Colin Sinclair has been training hard as he will be playing N1 and has tough matches ahead of him. He will also be playing doubles with Brett Baudinet, a player he has been playing doubles with for a while now. The ranking selection for the team currently will be Colin Sinclair as N1, Clement Mainguy N2, and Brett Baudinet/Colin Sinclair in the doubles, but any of this can still change depending on the result of the first two singles," he said.

Asked what's the team's strategy against Estonia, who are not only playing on home soil but have five ATP-ranked players in its lineup, Mara said they will rely heavily on Sinclair and of course the islanders' vaunted fighting spirt.

"We don't have a specific strategy as Colin Sinclair is our only ATP ranked player. Therefore he will be our strongest weapon against Estonia. Our team spirit and fire to fight on court for every point is our best tactic."

Mara also shared his thoughts on the situation in Ukraine, which like Estonia used to be a republic of the former Soviet Union.

"The Ukraine situation is very saddening and we all wish this wasn't happening. That being said, it has no effect on our daily lives or daily trainings here in Estonia as the distance between Estonia and Ukraine is great," he said.

On Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association treasurer Lydia Tan wished Sinclair and the rest of the Pacific Oceania team luck in their tie against Estonia.

"All the best and good luck to Colin and Pacific Oceanic team. Go for the big win and have a great match/game. We will be cheering from Saipan!" she said.

NANAKO

From Page 24

the Big Boy ATV said he did a few adjustment to his ride before the February race.

"The track conditions are rough the more we ride so I did some suspension adjustments to compensate for the conditions. I want to thank my wife for her continued support, my parents and siblings for always helping me, and my daughter after the heat races, the MRA board, the flaggers, and all the race fans that come out to watch," he said.

MICHAEL JORNAL

Christian "Hollywood" Camacho in action in the Big Boy ATV Class of the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track.

TSUNAMI

From Page 24

is very smart, aggressive, and positive. We planned and held some joint ocean swim and practice already. So now, we should try to hold the time trial in the pool."

Sikkel said a mutual meet for SSC and Tsunami Saipan swimmers will only improve the times of swimmers from both clubs.

"We look forward to getting in the pool and reestablish a benchmark of times that the swimmers can start improving upon. Getting to train/swim together will make us all faster swimmers. Hopefully, we can make this a regular thing so we can learn and improve," he said.

Kimura and Sikkel thanked the management of PIC Saipan for allowing them the use of their lap pool for the mutual meet.

WANTED: SPORTS REPORTER

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Harden stars in Philadelphia home debut, leads 76ers to win

PAGE 21

Saipan Tribune
Sports

40 boats expected for Wahoo in the Marianas

PAGE 23

Pacific Oceania faces Estonia in return to Group II

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Pacific Oceania team, bannered by the CNMI's Colin Sinclair, will take on Estonia today and tomorrow in its return to Group II of the Davis Cup competition at the Forus Tenniscentre in Tallinn, Estonia.

Sinclair is the only ATP-ranked player for Pacific Oceania, which is also made up Clement Mainguy of Vanuatu, Matthew Stubbings of Papua New Guinea, and Brett Baudinet of the Cook Islands. Sinclair is currently ranked No. 667 in singles and 596 in doubles. Aymeric Mara of Vanuatu is serving as captain in their tie against the Baltic country.

They will go up against an Estonia side that has all five of its players ranked in the ATP. Jurgen Zopp has the highest ATP ranking at No. 796 in singles and 915 in doubles, followed by Vladimir Ivanov (938 in singles and 746 in doubles), Kenneth Raisma (1,139 and 1,249), Kristjan Tamm (1,152 and 90), and Mark Lajal (1,232 and 1,943). Estonia will be skippered by Ekke Tiidemann.

See PACIFIC on Page 23

OTF

The CNMI's Colin Sinclair, standing right, poses with the rest of the Pacific Oceania team days before their tie against Estonia in Group II of the Davis Cup competition at the Forus Tenniscentre in Tallinn, Estonia.

Nanako, 'Hollywood' top divisions

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Nanako Celis and Christian "Hollywood" Camacho came out victorious in the Power Puff Girls and Big Boy ATV division, respectively, of the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track.

Aboard her trusty Yamaha YZ85 Celis finished with 47 points to win the Power Puff Girls Class after finishing second in the first heat and first in the second heat. Shaniah Alvarez came in second with 42 points, while Billie Pangelinan, who won last month, had some troubles with her bike and finished third with 40 points.

The 13-year-old Celis said the conditions at the motocross track last Sunday were dusty, but she's glad that in her class the dust wasn't as large compared to those generated during the race of the big bikes.

Celis, who goes to school at Hopwood Middle School, said she wants to dedicate her win foremost to her father.

"I also want to dedicate this win to my sponsor—Trench Tech Racing Team—and of course to the rest of my family. I want to thank Marianas Racing Association for another great and successful event and all the hard work they do for the riders. Lastly, I want to thank all the race fans for their tremendous support and hope to see you all out in the upcoming races," she said.

"Hollywood" Camacho, meanwhile, made it back-to-back after dominating anew the Big Boy ATV Class with 50 points after winning both heats. Rex Susulin and Henry Camacho Sr. were tied at 42 points, but the latter took second after topping the second heat. Camacho Sr. settled for third place.

"I thought the rain we've been having leading to race day would make the track tacky, but as the sun came out race day, it started showing signs that it would be a dusty day. So, I focused on getting the hole shot for both heats and riding my race since I had a clear vision of the track," said "Hollywood" Camacho.

The defending champion of

See NANAKO on Page 23

MICHAEL JORNAL

Nanako Celis in action in the Power Puff Girls Class of the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track.

Tsunami Saipan-SSC mutual meet next week

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center and Saipan Swim Club will he holding a mutual time trial on March 7 and 9 at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan lap pool in San Antonio.

A total of 42 swimmers from both swim clubs are expected to take part in the competition, which will use a 25-yard lap pool, which coincidentally is the official size pool of USA swimming.

The events up for grabs will be divided into two age groups—10-and-under 50m butterfly, 50m backstroke, 50m breaststroke, 50m freestyle, and 100m freestyle as well as 11-and-over 100m butterfly, 100m backstroke, 100m breaststroke, 100m freestyle, and 100m individual medley.

Tsunami Saipan coach Hiroyuki Kimura and SSC coach Richard Sikkel are both excited for the two clubs' first-ever mutual time trial.

"Tsunami Saipan always hoped to make a good relationship and friendship with SSC. Long time ago, when coach Mike Stewart was here we had a mutual meet. But, after he left, SSC didn't want to have one anymore," he said.

Kimura added that fortunately he and Sikkel agreed to hold a mutual meet as it's all in the best interest of CNMI swimming.

CONTRIBUETD PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center swimmers compete in last year's time trial at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

"We knew it was necessary to hold it for NMI swimming. Therefore, it is very timely to revive it now because Richard became SSC coach. He

See TSUNAMI on Page 23